



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

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## Holy Eucharist, Rite One

8:00am

*Masks, covering mouth and nose, must be worn at all times during this service.*

### The Word of God

#### Prelude

#### Opening Acclamation and the Collect for Purity

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.

*Celebrant* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### The Summary of the Law

#### Gloria to God in the Highest – *Gloria in Excelsis*

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The First Lesson Acts 8.26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God.*

### **The Gradual Psalm 22.24-30 *Deus, Deus meus***

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*

he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; \*

they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*

the saving deeds that he has done.

### **The Epistle I John 4.7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this

is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*The Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God.*

### **The Gospel John 15.1-8**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

### **The Sermon**

#### **The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People, Form V**

Response: *Lord, Have Mercy*

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Celebrant and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

*The Celebrant stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Peace**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer II**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them up to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

*People* It is meet and right so to do.

## **Sanctus**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Note on Communion: Please keep your mask on as you come forward to receive Communion. An usher will send worshipers forward by household. Remain at least six feet distant from those ahead of you. Receive the consecrated bread in your hands, stretched out as far as possible toward the priest, and hold it in your hands as you return to your seat by the side aisle. Once seated, briefly remove your mask, consume the consecrated bread, and replace your mask.*

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.

*Amen.*

## **Blessing & Dismissal**

### **Postlude**

# 2021 | ST. JOHN'S Welcome EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Our Worship

In today's gospel lesson, Jesus declares, "I am the true vine." This is the last of Jesus' "I am" statements in John's gospel. His earlier statements were directed to seekers and were focused on him being the life-giver. But now Jesus is speaking to those who had already come to him- those who were already believers. As the branches must remain connected to the vine to survive, so must his disciples remain in his love to survive- and not only to survive, but also to grow and thrive. Our epistle lesson expands on this same theme. By abiding in God's love, we are inspired to share it with others.

At the 10:30 service this week, all four of the St. John's Choral Scholars will sing; our hymns will include some favorites, and for the anthem they will sing "I come with joy to meet my Lord."

For our evening worship at Gravatt, Michael Brown, Brian McCants, and Craig Keeney will be leading the singing.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Those participating in Sunday's worship:

Lectors: Michael Burkett (8:00),  
Angela Daniel (10:30)

Ushers: Jason Lockhart, Cody Harper, Mike McCauley (10:30)

Greeters: Will Grice, Mary Sherrer, Nicole Bell

Altar Flowers: Margaret Cain & Elisabeth Williamson

## Family Ministries

Join us in a return to some normalcy with forMAYtion hour, starting this morning! All children and youth at St. John's are invited to learn about our worship life in a joyful classroom setting from 9:30-10:15.

Join us for Children's Chapel during the 10:30 service. Two adults will take the children to the gym for this worship moment from the Gospel reading to the Peace.

Mark your calendars for a celebration of our high school seniors May 9 during EYC!

Middle School EYC 5:00

Dinner for all ages, including families of seniors, at 6:00

High School EYC/Senior Night 6:30

St. John's will provide an entree. Bring a side to share!

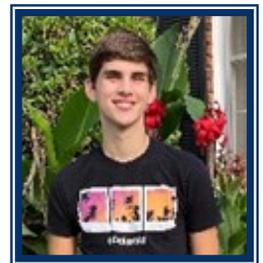
Mark your calendar for Youth Sunday, May 9! Seniors will preach and youth will help lead all three services.

## St. John's Missionary

Last month, the Vestry approved Sam Fleischer to serve as St. John's Missionary. He will be doing an eight month (August-April) cross-cultural internship with Frontiers in North Africa. His education will include regular mentoring by members of an international team of missionaries and intensive Arabic language study. He will also be tutoring children in English. Sam's goal is to raise \$7,000. If you would like to support him, you may do so in the following ways:

**Give by check:** Place a check in the Offering Plate/ Basket, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to the church. Checks should be payable to St. John's Episcopal Church (SJE) with my name written in the memo.

**Give online:** (scan with the camera on your phone to open a direct link)



Follow us on Facebook for the latest details and stream services: [facebook.com/StJohnsEpiscopalChurchShandon](https://facebook.com/StJohnsEpiscopalChurchShandon)

## Adult Confirmation Class

In addition to the youth confirmation, there will also be adult confirmation classes offered this season. If you or an adult you know is interested in being confirmed in the next cycle at St. John's, reach out to Maggie Mallette at [mcm@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:mcm@stjohnscolumbia.org).

## St. John's Property Projects

Three efforts to care for and improve our St. John's campus are underway.

-Property Committee chair Gene Bell has been meeting with contractors regarding the replacement of our wooden handicap ramp (Holly Street side of the church) and a new back stoop for the church. New doors, handrails, and exterior lighting are part of those projects intended to make accessing the church safer.

-The Nursery in Heyward Hall is closer to a conclusion, with new paint, play-area carpet, and repairs to heating and air. A new play house and a toy cleaning and culling project are also underway. We are experiencing something of a baby boom and need to be ready!

-A refreshment of the Barr Center Dining Room is in early stages of planning. We hope to use the Dining Room for more of our meals in the future and are seeking the right furniture and finishes to make the room pleasant and useful for the years ahead.

**Forward Day by Day** Copies of the May/June/July devotional are now available! If you need a copy mailed to you, please email [msg@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:msg@stjohnscolumbia.org) Currently we have the standard size and large print while supplies last.



You can buy a cookbook in the St. John's office or after service on Sunday for \$20.

## My Mother's Lemon Meringue Pie \*

### Filling:

Graham cracker crust or pie shell  
3 egg yolks  
1/2 cup lemon juice  
1 can sweetened condensed milk

Blend the yolks of 3 eggs with lemon juice and the condensed milk. Blend well and place in the graham cracker crust or pie shell.

### Meringue:

3 egg whites  
6 tsp. sugar  
1/2 tsp cream of tartar

Beat the whites of 3 eggs. After one minute, slowly start adding the sugar and cream of tartar. Beat the egg whites until they peak using medium-high speed. Add a little more cream of tartar if the egg whites will not peak. Then seal the meringue on top of the ingredients in the pie crust. Bake meringue at 350 for about 10 minutes or until lightly brown.

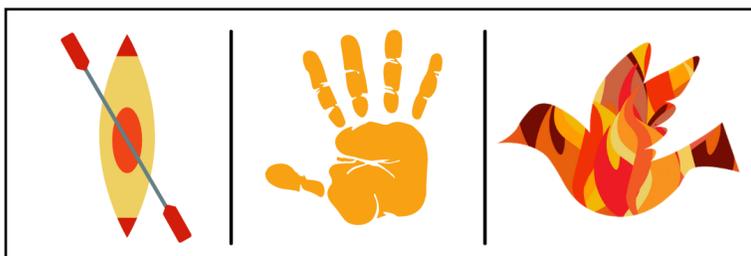
\*Contributed by Miriam Lyles Hedgepath

## GLAD & GENEROUS HEARTS

### A Blog from Father Beasley

Thanks be to God for much good news regarding our experience with COVID-19! Infection rates and mortality are falling. Many of us are enjoying renewed our lives in community, post-vaccination. The clergy and all members of our music and program staff are vaccinated. More and more of our church members are as well. We see painful scenes in India and are aware of states like Michigan in which the news is not as good; we grieve with those who grieve around God's world. Yet we have reason to hope that more normal times are here, if we will get vaccinated and be prudent until we are. I do encourage you to do both.

**Read the rest online here:** <https://www.stjohnscolumbia.org/index.php/news-calendar/glad-and-generous-hearts/271-some-covid-and-worship-updates-at-st-john-s-from-fr-beasley>



## Save-the-Date St. John's!

### May 2: Gravatt Sunday

*Come out and join us for a fun afternoon!*

### May 9: Youth Sunday

*Join us in celebrating the youth of St. John's.*

### May 23: Pentecost

*Don't forget to wear your red!*

# 2021 VESTRY MEMBERS

## Dan Fulton

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## Jordan Mancini

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## Prayer Requests

**For Healing:** Edie Benson, Ann Bowman, Jake Brooker, Margaret Buchanan, Evelyn Bull, Paden Carroll, Matthew Cooke, Landon Derrick, Barbara DeVillier, Diana Edwards, Elaine Folline, Janice Fort, Burton Fowles, Melinda Franks, Parker Gibson, Joy Grimsley, Rod & Ginny Hungerford, Alice King, Jim Knight, Helen Larkins, Jim Larkins, Alex Newcomer, Cese Newcomer, Rachel Pertile, Marsha Reid, Monica Rivera, Lorraine Roberts, Leigh Sharpe, Brandon and Randolph Shives, Buck & Annette Shuler, Katy Smith, Eleanor Stalvey, Stephen Sutusky, Joanne Tate, John Tiller, Mike Tronco, Claire Trowbridge, Brooks Wheeler.

**For Expectant Parents:** Randall & Virginia Boland, Sam & Mary Margaret Crews, Josh & Mary Kathryn Cone, Gabe & Catherine Warth, Kyle & Bryana Reesor.

**For Military Service Personnel:** Hamilton Osborne III, Matthew Simmons, Camilo Morago, Byron Davison, Treb Courie, Brennen Fleischer.

## New Men's Bible Study

Fr. Scott is leading a new Bible study for younger men. They're studying the epistle of James. Some scholars believe that this was the first New Testament book written. It was probably written by Jesus' half-brother, James. At the time, James was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. Unlike most of the other epistles, this letter was written for people who already believe the gospel. His goal is to help them live faithfully as followers of Jesus. The primary message driving James' letter is that Christians' faith in the gospel should work itself out in a life of obedience. This group meets on Fridays at 7:00 am, either in the Parlor, or on the Patio, depending on the weather. Books are available through this link: [https://www.amazon.com/James-12-Week-Study-Knowing-Bible/dp/1433534797/ref=nodl\\_](https://www.amazon.com/James-12-Week-Study-Knowing-Bible/dp/1433534797/ref=nodl_)

## Rector's Bible Study

The group has begun a new study, utilizing the book by N. T. Wright, exploring the book of Galatians. Books are \$10 and will be available in the Heyward Hall Breakroom. Contact [nmb@stjohnscolumbia.org](mailto:nmb@stjohnscolumbia.org) with questions and zoom link!

## New or Visiting?

If you are new or visiting with us, please fill out a card so we can get to know you and help you get to know us! Our heart is to prepare you to accept God's grace, grow in faith, and serve Christ in the world. We would love to connect you with staff, clergy and lay ministers.



## Please remember the basics of safe attendance for all services:

- Do not come to worship if you feel sick, if there is illness in your family, or if you have been exposed to the virus.
- Wash your hands vigorously before coming to church.
- Wear your well-fitted mask at all times and keep distance from others.
- Get vaccinated when you can!
- Let one of the clergy know if you become ill after worship at St. John's.

## St. John's Clergy & Staff

W. Andrew Waldo, Bishop of Upper South Carolina  
Nicholas M. Beasley, Rector  
Scott R. Fleischer, Associate Rector  
Deedie Marshall, Priest Associate  
Michael T. Brown, Director of Music  
Monica Yates, Organist  
Maggie Mallette, Director of Family Ministries  
Rhonda Gardner, Financial Administrator  
Megan Griffin, Administrative Assistant  
Tony Taylor, Head Sexton