



HOLY EUCHARIST
for the
Fifth Sunday
of Easter

St. John's
Anglican Church
West Toronto

April 28, 2024
10:00 am

* *The Land Acknowledgement is taken from A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer*
https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/nidp-liturgy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oWVCmVyX1tQWadWWfd1e5PoGDI4bf_p77nxkedV50uBfllCO4BE2MUa
8 Retrieved 2021 March 8.

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Today's Reading: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:24-30; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8, NRSV.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant & Preacher:	Mother Alexandra Stone
Deacon:	The Reverend Evelyn Butler
Lectors:	Mabel-Anne Waters & Christine Mamcarz
Intercessor:	Judith Olumbe
Piano:	Dan Gooch
Band:	Shuffle Puppy Raija Walli (Lead Vocals) Andrew Arth (Lead Guitar) Tessa Rusgnak (Vocals & Guitar)
Technical Support:	Greg Los, Chris Ruddy & Michael Taylor

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Wendat, the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee, the first people of this land.

We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred on this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced.

With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

In the Morning Light

In the morning light is where I see you best
In the dark still I see your head of hair
I'll be here as long as you'll still be there.

Chorus:

*The sea won't swallow us
Lay by the shore and sleep
Morning light feels fine
When we're fast asleep*

There's a moon that shines down on me, but I can't see
There's a sun that makes the grass grow tall and the water shine
And nothing beats a shallow creek that too runs deep. **Chorus.**

Words & Music: Samuel Blasucci, Clay Robert Finch © 2017

OPENING PRAYERS

Celebrant: Christ has risen! Alleluia!

All: Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Celebrant: May the grace and peace of Jesus the Christ be with you.

All: May God fill our hearts with joy.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

GLORIA

CP 366

All: Glory, in the highest glory,
peace to all, in all their days.
Worship, thanks, and praise
unceasing to the Source of all we raise;
reigning in the sapphire height,
hidden from our mortal sight,
now receive our adoration,
as we make our supplication.

Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Lamb of God, for sinners given,
Word eternal, born of Mary,
Word made flesh, the face of heaven:
holy one, to you we pray,
hear us in the realms of day,
with the Spirit there united,
and the Godhead high exalted.

*Words: Glory to God (Gloria in excelsis, Greek hymn); para. Paul Gibson
Music: PSALM 42, Melody Geneva, 1551; harm. based on Claude Goudimel; rev.
Alain Mabit, © Paul Gibson; Rev. © 1995 Réveil Publications*

COLLECT

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of God 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, the 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 God 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.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

The psalm is printed in your bulletin. Let us read it responsively.

My praise is of God in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Most High.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek God shall give praise: “May your heart live for ever!”

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Most High, and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

For sovereignty belongs to God, who rules over the nations.

To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before God.

My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; they shall be known as God’s for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that God has done.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first epistle of John.

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 God’s only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God’s 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 abides in us, and God’s love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of the Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Creator has sent the 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 God 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 God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a sibling are liars, for those who do not love a sibling, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their siblings also.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able.

GRADUAL

CP 715

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[May repeat]

Text & Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker. © 1985

THE GOSPEL

Gospeller: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to John.

All: Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and God, my Divine Parent is the vinegrower. God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God 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. God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

GRADUAL

CP 715

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON

Please be seated for the sermon.

APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able.

CP 44
Tune: CP 388

Celebrant: Please stand as you are able and join with me in confessing the faith of our baptism.

**All: I believe in God almighty,
Author of all things that be,
maker of the earth and heavens,
keeper of the sky and sea.**

**I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
now for us both God and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.**

**I believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified;
taken from the cross, was buried –
true life there had truly died.**

**I believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God's right hand.
He will come to judge and save.**

**I believe in God's own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
one church, catholic and holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin;**

**in the body's resurrection,
for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting:
this the faith that I have claimed.**

*Words: The Apostles' Creed; para. Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 G. I. A. Publications, Inc.
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All: Let us give thanks that God is with us always.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

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

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: May the peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

We take a moment to share the peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

OFFERTORY

If you are able to make a contribution, we appreciate your generosity. Your offering makes it possible to continue our ministry here at St. John's.

If you would prefer to give online, please visit our website at www.sjw.ca and look for the donate now button.



You are invited to stand around the altar in a circle and remain there through the Prayer after Communion.

HYMN

Bridge over Troubled Water

When you're weary, feeling small,

When tears are in your eyes

I will dry them all

I'm on your side

When times get rough

And friends just can't be found

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will lay me down

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will lay me down

When you're down and out

When you're on the street

When evening falls so hard

I will comfort you

I'll take your part

When darkness comes

And pain is all around

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will lay me down

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will lay me down

Sail on, silvergirl

Sail on by

Your time has come to shine

All your dreams are on their way

See how they shine

If you need a friend

I'm sailing right behind

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will ease your mind

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will ease your mind

Words & Music: Paul Simon © 1969

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Saviour. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might, CP 732
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Our God.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE SAVIOUR'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed, your reign spread among us, your will be done well, at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Let us not fail in the time of our testing. Spare us from trials too sharp to endure. Free us from the grip of all evil powers. For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now and eternity, world without end. Amen and Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: O Christ, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

*Words: Trad.; Music: Community Mass, Richard Proulx
© 1971, 1977 G.I.A. Publications Inc.*

COMMUNION

The Eucharistic feast is a participation in the Body and Blood of Christ. Receiving Communion is a sacramental means through which we reaffirm that we became part of Christ's one Body in our baptism.

The Anglican Church welcomes all Christians from any denomination to receive Communion.

Please speak to the priest after the service if you would like to discuss baptism or if you have any questions about the sacraments.

Those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you wish to be blessed.

Gluten free hosts are available. Please let us know if you require one.

HYMN

Time in a Bottle

If I could save time in a bottle
The first thing that I'd like to do
Is to save every day
'Til eternity passes away
Just to spend them with you

If I could make days last forever
If words could make wishes come true
I'd save every day like a treasure and then
Again, I would spend them with you

But there never seems to be enough time
To do the things you want to do
Once you find them
I've looked around enough to know
That you're the one I want to go
Through time with

If I had a box just for wishes
And dreams that had never come true
The box would be empty
Except for the memory
Of how they were answered by you

But there never seems to be enough time
To do the things you want to do
Once you find them
I've looked around enough to know
That you're the one I want to go
Through time with

Words & Music: Jim Croce © BMG Rights Management

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Praise God, in Jesus fully known.

Creator, Word and Spirit one.

CP 672

HYMN

I Live for You

All alone in this world am I
Not a care for this world have I
Only you keep my eyes open wide
Yes it's true
I live for you

Not a thing in this world do I own
Only sadness from all that is grown
In this darkness I wait for the day
Yes it's true
I live for you

For many years I wait
For many tears I wait

All this time my thoughts return to you
Give my love, that is all I can do
Wait in line till I feel you inside
Yes it's true
I live for you

For many years I wait
For many tears I wait

All this time my thoughts return to you
Give my love, that is all I can do
Wait in line till I feel you inside
Yes it's true
I live for you

Words & Music: George Harrison © BMG Rights Management

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go into the world and live the good news!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

WHAT'S *happening* This Week

Tue, Apr 30	Drop-In Dance Class (7 – 8:30 pm)
Wed, May 1	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Centering Prayer (10 – 10:30 am)
Thu, May 2	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Holy Eucharist (12 pm) Parish Council (7 pm – on Zoom)
Sat, May 4	Food Drop-Off (9:30 – 11:30 am) Coffee, Tea, and Creativity (10 am – 12 pm)
Sun, May 5	Morning Prayer (In Priest's Office – 9 – 9:30 am) Holy Eucharist (10 – 11:30 am) <i>St. John's Day</i>

Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

Ministry Team:

The Rev. Alexandra Stone, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*
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The Rev. Bob Shantz, *Honorary Assistant*

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