

Welcome to St. John's Church



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

10:00 a.m.

The health and safety of the most vulnerable in our congregation and community remains the highest concern to St. John's. While closed to the public in the midst of a rise in new infections, we continue to 'live stream' our Worship to both our St. John's YouTube Page [and](#) our St. John's Facebook page

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

*The Liturgy for the Proclamation of the Word of God
and Celebration of the Holy Communion*

Prelude

Pastorale

Bottazzo

He Leadeth Me Beside The Still Waters

Raymond Haan

Opening Hymn # 645 *The King Of Love My Shepherd Is*

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine for ever.*
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.*
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.*
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.*
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!*
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.*

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant may say

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People ***Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!***

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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 Lord. ***Amen.***

The Gloria S # 280

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

INTRODUCTION: While visiting the Temple, Peter and John cured a cripple and are now called to account for their actions before the high Jewish council.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Silence may follow.

A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

INTRODUCTION: In this reading we learn that the followers of Jesus are to emulate his love by laying down their lives for one another.

A Reading from the First Letter of John:

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Gradual *He Restoreth My Soul* by Kristi Flagg Kunhardt

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

INTRODUCTION: Our gospel is the story of the discovery of the empty tomb.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

*People The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon

Easter Sermon Series (part 4)

The Witnesses of the Resurrection

"The Beloved Disciple: Who Alone Understood"

The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

The Good Shepherd gave his life so that we could live with him forever. In this joy we offer our prayers, as we respond to each petition by saying, “Hear us, O risen Christ.”

+ That we may contemplate upon the great mysteries of faith; Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again; and move more deeply into God’s profound desire for eternal fellowship with all humanity; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That our actions toward our neighbors, whether poor or rich, or undeserving, may reflect God’s commandment of love; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for leaders of the nations of the world, especially António, Secretary General of the United Nations, Joe, our President, Ned our Governor, Jim, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, and for the members of our Congress and Courts; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For Suheil, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our Bishops; Fr. Geoff, our priest, and all the members of this parish, who give sacrificially of time and talent so that the Church may be a true fellowship of believers; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For those who are ill, especially those suffering in the midst of this pandemic, and also Mary Jo Keating, Marlene Smith, Tom Witt, Ed and Zemma White, Kathy Coe, Diana Clark, Lisa Lafleur and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery, Joan Beattie, and Ken Hecken; that they may find relief from their suffering, and for those whose medical and social skills assist in the work of healing, that they may have patience and wisdom; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For those who have departed this life in the faith and fear of the Lord, especially the 575,000 Americans who have fallen in this pandemic, that they may join the company of the saints in light; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for those who till the soil, harvest the crops, tend farm animals, and join the long chain of essential workers by whose hands we are fed; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

As followers of the Good Shepherd, we pause now so that all may add their own prayers and petitions, either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst; (*pause for a moment*).

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, 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 neighbors 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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

The Almighty and most merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory *He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant faces the congregation and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John, our Patron and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

***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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant and People

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you physically, we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually. We embrace you with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 343

Shepherd Of Souls, Refresh And Bless

- 1** *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
thy chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock.*
- 2** *We would not live by bread alone,
but by thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on
to our abiding-place.*
- 3** *Be known to us in breaking bread,
and do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart.*
- 4** *Lord, sup with us in love divine
thy Body and thy Blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.*

The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

Postlude

Allegro In C

Hermann Schroeder

Music Notes: Jon and Kristi met back in the 70's when Kristi attended Shepaug middle school where he was head of the vocal music program. She had her first solos under Jon's direction in the middle school chorus and sang lead roles in the school musicals. She was inspired by those early experiences to study acting and voice in high school and then at Northwestern University, securing a degree in Performance Studies. Kristi played solo (acoustic guitar and voice) and also with a band in various venues from Texas to Maine from 1990-1996, at times opening for some A-list acts including The Indigo Girls, Odetta, and John Gorka. In the last three years, after being away from music for about two decades, Kristi returned to her guitar and writing, releasing her album Kristi Flagg / "Brave New View" in October 2020. Her next release, "The Other Side", is scheduled for release this summer. She is so happy to be singing, once again, with her beloved music teacher in the church where she was baptized and a member of the giggling children's choir. *Her music is available on Spotify and iTunes and videos of live and filmed performances are accessible on her YouTube channel. (Links at kristiflagg.studio)...*
Jon

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793**

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Celebrant*
Jon Lafleur, *Organist*
Kristi Flagg Kunhardt, *Soloist*
Sara Coles, *Reader*
Joseph Claro, *Veejay (VJ)*
The Flower Guild, *Altar Flowers*
MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website:

<http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT>

St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqlRss4BT8VwFul4qg>