

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Zoom Worship - April 30, 2023

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "All things bright and beautiful"

Hymn #405

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895). Music: Royal Oak, 1686, adapted.

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.**

1. **Each little flow'r that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings.**
2. **The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.**
3. **The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them, every one.**
4. **God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.**

Pause: Celebration & Thanks for Deanna Clement

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Officiant If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

Alleluia, the Lord is risen indeed; Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Pascha Nostrum

**Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.**

**The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!**

Psalm 23 (1928 Prayer Book language)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

He leadeth me beside the still waters; he restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:**

for Thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

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

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

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The First Lesson: Acts 4:32 - 5:16

NARRATOR

A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common, as belonging to everybody.

As the first Christians bore witness to Jesus' resurrection, grace was at work within the Christian community. Nobody didn't have enough. The people who owned properties or houses would sell them, and bring the money that they made, and give it to the apostles, the leaders of the church.

Then the money was given out to anyone who was in need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles nicknamed Barnabas.

VOICE 2

That means "One who encourages!"

NARRATOR

Joseph owned a field. He sold it, brought the money, and placed it in the care and under the authority of the apostles, for them to share with those who needed it.

VOICE 2

What can I say? It felt great to share with my community!

NARRATOR

However, a man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. With his wife's knowledge, Ananias withheld some of the proceeds from the sale.

VOICE 1

Listen, Sapphira. I got thirty thousand for it, but I'm going to tell them I only got twenty thousand. Then we can keep the extra ten.

VOICE 2

Brilliant, my dear Ananias. After all, you worked hard for what you have! Why should we give everything up, just because we're Christians now?

NARRATOR

Ananias brought the rest of the money and placed it in the care and under the authority of the apostles. But Peter, the spokesman for the apostles, had a feeling.

PETER

Ananias, how is it that Satan has influenced you to lie to the Holy Spirit by withholding some of the proceeds from the sale of your land? Wasn't that property yours to keep? After you sold it, wasn't the money yours to do with whatever you wanted? Nobody is forcing you to make this gift. Why are you pretending to be more generous than you really are? You haven't lied to other people but to God!

NARRATOR

When Ananias heard these words, he dropped dead.

VOICE 1

AAAGH! *[die dramatically]*

NARRATOR

Everyone who heard this conversation was terrified. Some young men stood up, wrapped up his body, carried him out, and buried him.

About three hours later, his wife entered, but she didn't know what had happened to her husband. Peter asked her,

PETER

Tell me, did you and your husband receive this price for the field - twenty thousand?

VOICE 2

Yes, that's the amount.

PETER

How could you conspire together against the Holy Spirit? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out too.

NARRATOR

At that very moment, she dropped dead at his feet.

VOICE 2

AAAGH! *[die dramatically]*

NARRATOR

When the young men entered and found her dead, they carried her out and buried her with her husband. Fear and dread seized the whole church and all who heard what had happened.

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. More and more believers joined the church - large numbers of people of all kinds. Even people could come in from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those harassed by unclean spirits. Everyone was healed.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

PEOPLE

Thanks be to God.

A Song of Creation (adapted)

from the Song of the Three Young Men in the Old Testament

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, sun and moon;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, stars of heaven;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, morning dew and falling snow;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, all that grows in the ground;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, you whales and all that swim in the waters;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, all wild animals and tame creatures;

sing praise to God forever!

Bless the Lord, all people on earth;

sing praise to God forever!

The Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Miranda K. Hassett

The Prayers

Officiant We now enter a time of prayer. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Send prayer requests to to prayers@stdunstans.com.

Officiant Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are able, please hold others' prayer requests before God in your heart as well.

Officiant Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all those in authority.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all nations and peoples.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for our local communities.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list: You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant

Let us pray. 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 Officiant may read one of the following Collects as well:

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting One, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of Blessings

Officiant Does anyone have any blessings or thanksgivings to share with the assembly?

The Peace

Celebrant Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you. Alleluia!**

We greet one another, wishing one another the peace of Christ.

Announcements

The Blessing

Celebrant The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; and the blessing of the holy and undivided Trinity, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**