

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

www.stpaulspgh.org

5th Sunday of Easter - Sunday, Sunday May 2, 2021 • 10:45am
Celebrating: The Rev. Noah H. Evans Preaching: The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo

Know that God loves you, no exceptions.

You are always welcome at God's table at St. Paul's.

St Paul's is a spiritual home and welcoming community to people of all ages, generations, educational backgrounds, financial means, abilities and disabilities, races, ethnicities and nationalities, without regard to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, with many different family and religious backgrounds. Some of us are lifelong Episcopalians; some were raised in other Protestant denominations or in the Roman Catholic Church; some are new to the Christian faith; some are not quite sure what they believe. There is a place here for you.

WELCOME!

Prelude: Songs of Love

Improvisation on chant, Ubi caritas et amor (Where charity and love are, [there God is])

Meditazione sopra Ubi caritas

Fantasia on Wondrous Love

Carlotta Ferrari, b. 1975

David Hurd, b. 1953

Welcome and Greetings

Opening Hymn 657, Love Divine, all loves excelling vv. 1&3

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.*

Song of Praise Hymn 487, Come my Way, my Truth, my Life

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Music: O Perfect Love

George Lachenauer, b. 1933

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Laura DiPanfilo

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsor
Parents and Godparents I present Tucker Joel Myers to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Candidate, Parents, and Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Candidate, Parents, and Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Candidate, Parents, and Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Candidate, Parents, and Godparents I do.

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Candidate, Parents, and Godparents I do.

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Candidate, Parents, and Godparents I do.

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People We will.

Celebrant Let us join with this person, who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every

human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidate

Celebrant Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving over the Water

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Baptism

_____, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen.*

Be with us as a light to the world. *Amen.*

Celebrant

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

If you would like to make an announcement, or have something announced, please contact Noah by the Thursday before the announcement.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music: Wade in the water
John Sozansky, Bass

Spiritual, arranged H. Burleigh (1866-1949)

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A
The people may stand or kneel.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever 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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

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,

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen. (Written St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Communion Music: Because he Lives
Eileen Minnette, Piano

William Gaither, b. 1936

Post Communion Prayer—said together

Let us pray.

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.

Blessing

Dismissal

The worship is ended, the service begins.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude: Toccata in E minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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Music Notes:

Sunday's Collect proclaims Christ as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life", leading to our gift of eternal life. This is a definition of Christ's love for us and many of our musical sections are based on love. This collect prayer is embedded in the hymn, "Come my Way, my Truth, my Life" which we sing at the sequence and our opening hymn is a favorite love hymn, "Love Divine, all loves excelling."

The organ preludes and sequence music are also based on love. The ancient chant, "Ubi caritas et amor" is in the first two organ preludes, an improvisation on the chant followed by "Meditazione sopra Ubi caritas" by Carlotta Ferrari. David Hurd, former music professor at General Seminary and Noah Evans' music instructor, sets a haunting fantasia on the hymn, "Wondrous Love," the final prelude. Many of us wedded in the Episcopal Church may have used the old 1940 hymnal setting of "O Perfect Love." Sadly, that hymn is not in the 1982 hymnal but George Lachenauer's organ setting heard at the Sequence may bring back warm memories.

To highlight today's Baptism, John Sozansky sings the Spiritual, "Wade in the Water." at the Offertory and Eileen Minnette plays piano at the Communion the Easter hymn, "Because He Lives!"

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Pastoral Care 24/7 Hotline 412-440-8123

In the event of a pastoral emergency such as serious illness, injury or death, please call.

A clergy person will either answer or call you as soon as possible.

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

Ministers, The Entire Congregation

The Rev. Noah H. Evans, Rector
The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Jean Chess, Deacon
Douglas Starr, Director of Music and Arts
Christin Cooper, Music Assistant for Children
Kara Viggiano, Interim Parish Administrator
Monica Miller, Financial Administrator
Andrea Kamouyerou, Director of Engagement
Kristen Morgan, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Matt Wachtler, Head Sexton
Eileen Sharbaugh, Nursery School Director
The Rev. Luke Zerra, Youth Minister
The Rev. Ted Babcock, Priest Associate
The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III, Priest Associate
The Rev. Catherine A. Munz, Priest Associate

Vestry

Ginny Barnicoat, *Senior Warden*
Pam Ryan, *Junior Warden*
Jan Toth, *Treasurer*
Frank Horrigan, *Clerk*
Gina Brownfield, Meghan Clark, Kathleen Davies Hendricks, Mark Lamendola,
John Sheehan, Ell Vines, Karen Melvin, Leigh Coogan
Assistant Junior Warden, Geoff Hurd