

**Worship Outline – Sunday, May 2, 2021**  
**5th Sunday of Easter**

**Officiant:** Rev. Canon Susan Wells  
**Reflections:** Rev. Canon Susan Wells  
**Lay reader:** Peter Carr  
**Prayers:** Bev Stewart  
**Moderator:** Ross Noble  
**Organist:** Janet Kilpatrick

**Hymn: #425 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father and our Mother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Alleluia, Christ is risen,  
The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!  
May his grace and peace be with you;  
May he fill our hearts with joy.

### **Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, 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 Lord. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

*Please share a greeting with those around you.*

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

### **Collect of the Day**

God of deep soil and luxurious growth, you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you: may we abide in You alone who can teach us who we are, Jesus Christ, the true vine. Amen.

*Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.*

### **Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.

These are our sacred stories.

Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 22:25-31**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

### **Gospel:**

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:1-8)

*Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.

The Gospel of Christ,

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Homily**     *Rev. Canon Susan Wells*

**Hymn: #52 O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near**

O God, unseen yet ever near,  
Your presence may we feel;  
And thus, inspired with holy fear,  
Around your table kneel.

Here may your faithful people know  
The blessings of your love,  
The streams that through the desert flow,  
The manna from above.

We come, obedient to your word,  
To feast on heavenly food;  
To eat the Body of the Lord,  
and drink his precious Blood.

O living Bread, enduring Vine  
Your words we shall obey,  
And go renewed with strength divine.  
Rejoicing on our way.

**Prayers of the People**      Led by Bev Stewart

**Bidding: Your kingdom, let it come!**

**Response: Your will, let it be done!**

**Those in need:** Margaret, David, Wendy, Barbara, Alex, Michelle, Anne, George, Stephen, Jane, Sari, Paul, Marion, Logan, Dianne, Ken, Bill, Pam, Ardene, Don, Rick C, Karen, Nick, Louis, Alex, Gloria, Vicki, Jessica, Cathy, Brian, Kristin, Betty, Lucy.

**Those in our parish:** Mae Taylor, Ruth Thomson, Fern Turner, Greg, Val, Meagan & Allison Tweney.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** St. Luke, Burlington, our parish of St. Elizabeth, our rector Susan, and our Bishop Susan Bell.

**In the World Wide Anglican Communion:** The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

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# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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*To produce fruit we need to be  
joined on to the true vine.*

Let us pray to the Lord God Almighty,  
in whom we live and move and have our being.

Father, we want to produce good fruit in abundance;  
nurture us as branches of the true vine,  
train and prune us where necessary,  
and may our spiritual harvest make rich wine,  
wine of your kingdom.

*Silence*

Your kingdom, let it come!  
**Your will, let it be done!**

Father, clearly we see around our world  
the tragic and expensive consequences  
of branches cut off from the true vine.  
We pray for a seeking after your truth  
and a desire to act rightly and justly  
in all areas of human society.

*Silence*

Your kingdom, let it come!  
**Your will, let it be done!**

Father, we pray for those to whom we are linked  
by family, friendships or work;  
especially we pray for those  
separated from their loved ones or their home.

*Silence*

Your kingdom, let it come!  
**Your will, let it be done!**

Father, we long for healing and wholeness  
in all who suffer  
and in all dysfunctional communities;  
guide us to understand  
how we might be part of the healing.

*Silence*

Your kingdom, let it come!  
**Your will, let it be done!**

Father, we know that death  
cannot separate us from your love;  
in that knowledge we commend to your keeping  
those who have died and all who miss them.

*Silence*

Your kingdom, let it come!  
**Your will, let it be done!**

Father, we thank you that we can live  
in the joyful freedom of your love,  
as we dedicate ourselves to serving others.

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us, this day, 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 forever. Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice.

When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive.

When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong.

When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.

When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.

Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life. As God's own forgiven people, go to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world

### **Children's Focus**

#### **Doxology** *(Sung twice)*

Glory to God, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Blessing**

#### **Closing Hymn: #635 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song**

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,  
like the vigour of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the vine,  
to the church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
with the power to love and witness with the peace beyond compare:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

### **Dismissal**

You are witnesses to the resurrection; you are messengers of the gospel. Go forth to tell the good news, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all.

We are witness and we will go forth to share the Good News. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Social hour: Includes announcements, birthdays and special occasions.**