

THE 10 AM SERVICE

ST. MARK'S IN-THE VALLEY

MAY 2, 2021, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

For now, please keep masks in place (except when consuming the sacrament) and maintain physical distance while on campus. Our patience with these considerations will likely only need to continue for a couple more months. Clergy and chalice bearers will bring communion to you at your seat.

Prelude (seated) *Two American Folk Hymns*

Anna Laura Page

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation (standing, as able)

Leader ✠ Alleluia! By death, Christ tramples death.

All **To those in the tombs, Christ gives new life. Alleluia!**

Standing, as able, all join in praying the canticle

**Beloved let us love one another
because love is of God;**

**Everyone who loves comes from God
and knows God.**

**Those who do not love are not conscious of God,
for God is love.**

**God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:
by sending the Only Begotten into the world,
that we might have faith through the Holy One.**

Love, then, consists in this:

**not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us
and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins.**

**Beloved, if God has loved us so,
we must have the same love for one another.**

A Song of God's Love
1 John 4:7-11

The Collect of the Day (standing, as able)

Leader God is here.

All **God's Spirit is with us.**

Leader Let us pray.

Leader God of deep soil and lush growth; you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you: may we abide in the One who can teach us who we are; through Jesus Christ, the true vine.

All **Amen.**

from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, Steven Shakespeare

The Readings

THE 10 AM SERVICE

First Reading (*seated*)

1 John 4:7-21

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves comes from God and has knowledge of God. ⁸ Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love.

⁹ God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Holy One. ¹⁰ Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

¹³ The way we know that we remain in God and God in us is that we have been given the Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen for ourselves and can testify that God has sent the Only Begotten as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ When any acknowledge that Jesus is the Only Begotten, God dwells in them and they in God.

¹⁶ We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God in them.

¹⁷ Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgment without fear—because our relation to this world is just like Christ's. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear. To fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ If you say you love God but hate your sister or brother, you are a liar. For you cannot love God, whom you have not seen, if you hate your neighbor, whom you have seen. ²¹ If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well; we have this commandment from God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 22:24-30 (*remaining seated, we will pray responsively by whole verses*)

Reader ²⁴ You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly,
and I will fulfill my vows
in the presence of your worshipers.

All ²⁵ **Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied,
those who seek you will give you praise—
long life to their hearts!**

Reader ²⁶ The whole earth, from one end to the other,
will remember and come back to you;
all the families of the nations
will bow down to you.

All ²⁷ **For this is your dominion,
you Ruler of nations!**

Reader ²⁸ Those who had feasted and devoured the poor —
now they'll bow down;
the most affluent in the land
will kneel before you.
They all go down to the dust
and none can keep themselves alive.

THE 10 AM SERVICE

All ***29 But my children will be faithful to you,
and they will be told about God
for generations to come.***

Reader ***30 They will come and proclaim your justice
to a people yet unborn:
“All this God has done!”***

The Gospel (*standing, as able*)

John 10:11-18

Reader The ✠ Holy Gospel of our ✠ Savior Jesus Christ ✠ according to John.

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

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Source is the vine grower ² who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. ³ You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. ⁷ If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ God my Creator will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus show that you are my disciples.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

All ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sermon (*seated*)

Affirmation of Faith (*standing, as able*)

***All shall be Amen and Alleluia.
We shall rest and we shall see.
We shall see and we shall know.
We shall know and we shall love.
We shall love and we shall praise.
Behold our end, which is no end. Amen.***

Saint Augustine, as found in
An African Prayer Book,
Desmond Tutu, ed., p. 33.

Prayers of the People (*standing, as able*)

Leader God, we know that in your community Love is paramount, ¹

All ***That your compassion and generosity know no bounds.***

Leader Here, the poor shall eat and be satisfied ²

All ***Those who seek you will rejoice.***

Leader All the ends of the earth are familiar with God’s care. ³

All ***We are all part of your family.***

Leader We know that your Way of Love will transform us,
if we let it,

All ***Inside and out.***

Leader The paradigms and pattern of our lives will shift

All ***Out of ego, toward True Self;***

Leader Out of defensiveness, toward compassion;

All ***Out of violence, toward peace.***

***Litany for A New Way of
Being*** by Litanist **Fran
Pratt**, from her Patreon
collections and her book
*Call and Response,
Litanies* for
Congregational Prayer.
Find out more about
Fran and her work at
franpratt.com. ©Fran
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THE 10 AM SERVICE

Leader And we look for these markers within ourselves -
All **Signs of our new way of being,**
Leader Confirmations of your Spirit's transformative work in us,
All **Fruits of goodness and love.** ⁴

1. 1 John 4:7
2. Psalm 22:6
3. Psalm 22: 7
4. John 15:8
5. Acts 8:39

Leader We seek wisdom,
All **We seek life.**
Leader We seek belonging;
All **And when we find them, we go on our way rejoicing.** ⁵

Leader Help us as we journey here,
All **Learning the lessons we must learn,**
Leader Growing our hearts in compassion and service,
All **Expanding our souls' connection with you**
Leader Practicing the skills of loving relationship,
All **Bringing ourselves gradually into greater alignment with Love.**

Leader Let us embody mercy, grace, peace, and forgiveness,
All **And let Heaven-on-Earth be our legacy. Amen.**

The Peace *(standing, as able)*

Leader The peace of Christ be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

<i>For now, please stay in place and share the peace with those nearest you with a bow or wave and greeting.</i>
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory *Let us give, as each is able, according to the blessings God has given us.*

Voluntary *(seated) Peace Prayer*

Kevin Keil

NICHOLE DECHAINED, *flutist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

Presenting and dedicating our gifts *(standing, as able)*

Leader Asking: 'Why do you stand looking up into heaven?'

Jesus comes to us again and again;

All **in all people, in the bread and wine of this table
and in the communion of peace.**

The Great Thanksgiving *(standing, as able)*

Leader God is here.

All **God's Spirit is with us.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

(seated or standing)

Leader We praise you, God of freedom, for you breathed life into the void and showed yourself as the one who loves in freedom.

THE 10 AM SERVICE

From the nothingness of slavery you called a people into being and led them to springs of life; the presence of your glory went with shattered exiles into strange and distant lands and gathered from the valley of despair the flesh and blood of living hope.

In Jesus, you confronted the powers that killed and oppressed. You spoke to those considered dead and helped them stand again; you taught us to die that we might live.

You gave yourself for us tortured and forsaken, but you could not be confined by death; in the garden you speak our name, in the breaking of the bread you show yourself among us; by the lakeside, in the new day, you call us to take up your work.

Therefore, with all who lost faith, all who walked away in sadness, with the women at the tomb, and the men who hid in fear, we confess ourselves surprised by the suddenness of dawn and join the undying song of heaven:

*All **Holy, holy, holy: God of mercy, giver of life; earth, sea, sky, and all that lives, declare your presence and your glory. Hosanna in the highest.***

Leader We ask that your Holy Spirit will ✠ fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our savior, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith.

*All **Christ dies with us. Christ rises in us. Christ comes to us again and again.***

Therefore, we come to him in whom all is created in heaven and on earth, whose cross and resurrection make all things new.

We offer this to you, asking you to smile upon the gifts we bring, for you alone are the Giver and Christ's the gift through which we live once and for all.

Through the One who was emptied to bear your fullness we make our prayer with all created life to the glory of the God who fills all in all now and for ever.

*All **AMEN.***

(seated or standing)

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

*All **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 *(A period of silence is kept.)*

Leader We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*All **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

THE 10 AM SERVICE

The Invitation (*standing, as able*)

Leader The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion (*seated / standing, as able*)

The ministers of communion will come to you. As you wish, remain seated until they do. Please stand, as able, to receive. Please receive the host in your hands and take the small cup from the tray to receive. It is customary to respond "Amen" to the words of administration. An acolyte will pick up your cup in a basket.

Minister The Body of Christ, the Bread of heaven.

Response Amen.

Minister The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

Response Amen.

Communion is open to everyone.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are invited to receive communion here. You are welcome to come forward and take the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.

At Communion Give Me Jesus

NICHOLE DECHAINED, *vocalist* and BEVERLY STAPLES, *pianist*

Spiritual, arr. Edward Boatner

¹ In the mornin' when I rise,
in the mornin' when I rise,
in the mornin' when I rise,
give me Jesus.

² Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

Refrain
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all the world, give me Jesus.

³ Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

Postcommunion Prayer (*standing, as able*)

Leader Let us pray.

All **Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands, the word of life in whom our joy is complete: send us out to declare your truth, your unshakable faith in the world you love. Amen.**

The Blessing (*standing, as able*)

Leader Jesus, strong deliverer and lover of souls, as you sent Mary of Magdala to tell the good news of your resurrection, so fill and embolden us that we may be active expressions of your love of this world today and every day; and the ✠ blessing of God Almighty: Creating Presence, Redeeming Christ, and Life-giving Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal (*standing, as able*)

Leader ✠ Alleluia! By death, Christ tramples death.

All **To those in the tombs, Christ gives new life. Alleluia!**

Postlude (*seated*) *The Ash Grove*

Anne Krentz Organ