



St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204
The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5, 2024, 9 in the morning

Typically, Episcopalians stand to sing and for the proclamation of the Gospel; kneel for confession and prayer; and sit while listening to reading or preaching. You will see some indication for those postures in the bulletin. Your presence is more precious than your posture: please stand, sit, or kneel as you are able and prefer.

Welcome! We're glad you're here!

Page references are to the red Book of Common Prayer. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982, with service music indicated by 'S' at the front of the Hymnal; 'LEVAS' for hymns from red/black Lift Every Voice and Sing; and 'WLP' for hymns from green Wonder, Love, and Praise.

PRELUDE *All Glory Be to God On High (four variations)*

James Coe

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

HYMN 412 *Earth and All Stars*

David N. Johnson

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Please stand as you are able

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant and People

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.

GLORIA S 280

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

THE LESSONS

Seated

First Lesson

A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles. *10:44-48*.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

**With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.**

The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

Second Lesson

A Reading from the first letter of John. *5:1-6*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN 577 *God Is Love*

Ubi Caritas

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Stand as able

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. *15:9-17*
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

HOMILY

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and People

Stand as able

**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

God gives what is good. Let us pray that this goodness of God flow through us into all the world, saying: O God, giver of love, hear our prayer.

O God, your love is in motion. We praise the strength of your love. Where there is hunger, raise up your love. Where there is hurt and persecution, empower your love. Where there are false prophets, proclaim your love. Where there are lies, speak your love. O, God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

Where nations are angry and plot harm against one another, bring your love. Where governments lie and deceive, bring your love. Where powers cripple and destroy what you have made, bring your love. O, God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

Where the churches alienate one another, bring your love. Where our fears keep us from offering Christ to all the needy peoples, bring your love. When this assembly is marked by division and jealousy, bring your love. O, God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, increase our affection. Increase our compassion. Increase our joy. Show us those we do not see. *[Especially...]* Magnify our love. O God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

[The Prayer List will be shared, and other concerns are welcome to be named silently or aloud.]

Celebrant

O God, we thank you for the power of divine love and for the presence of your love in one another. Guide us all finally into that greatest love who is Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Sweet Is The Work*

Daniel Gawthrop

DOXOLOGY 380, v 3

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Standing, seated or kneeling

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 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:

SANCTUS S 125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. 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.**

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

HYMN S-171 *Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Intinction and drinking from the common cup are both offered; the Bread and the Cup are distributed with these words

The Body (and Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Morning Song*

Gilbert M. Martin

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 344 *Lord Dismiss Us With thy Blessing*

Sicilian Mariners

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune*

Gordon Young

PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin, Rector
Lynn Robinson, Minister of Music • Carol Dunlap, Guest Organist
Lynn Robinson, Usher • Carol Dunlap, Altar Guild
Roger Ludwig, Reader • Barbara Oliver, Prayers of the People
Patricia Broida, Lay Eucharistic Minister
Faye Pritchard, Patricia Broida, Teller • Christine Williams, Fellowship
Pete Oliver and Sandy Winger, Sound and Live-stream Coordinators

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome: We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and newcomers. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Or you may come forward and receive a blessing.

Please join us for coffee hour downstairs after the service.

The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted on the big bulletin board downstairs; we welcome and appreciate thank-offerings and memorial dedications

Little Free Food Pantry --St John's is moving closer to a final decision about whether to install a Little Free Food Pantry on-site, and is reaching out to the array of volunteers who stocked and oversaw the maintenance of the Pantry when it was at the Arlington Library, hoping to learn more about how they organized things and inviting them to join us in our own efforts. There is one more brain-storming session **Wednesday, May 1** at 7 pm, then we'll aim to make a final decision at the community wide meeting **Thursday, May 9**, again at 7 pm. If we do go forward, we will schedule a project launch celebration for Glencarlyn Day Saturday, June 1.

The Book Club has begun to read 'A Woman of NO Importance,' the story of an American socialite who became integral to the French Resistance during World War II. The Club will discuss this book Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 pm.

Pentecost - Red All Around -- May 19th, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit - clothe yourself in the colors of the Living Flame: red, orange, yellow and gold!

AFAC Bulk Food Packing On the second Friday evening of every other month, a group from St. John's works spends an hour at the Arlington Food Assistance Center bagging food. Contact Faye Pritchard on 703-931-2168 if you would like to help on May 10th.

Bells and Balloons to Start the Parade --Glencarlyn Day Parade starts at St John's, and we're adding balloon animals to last year's face-painting fun. The chance to ring the church bell was very popular last year, so we'll be offering that opportunity to kids of all ages, too! Please plan to join the fun as Glencarlyn celebrates sports of all types with a 'Take Me Out to the Game' theme. Wear your favorite team's hat or jersey for the festivities or your St. John's tee shirt if you have one.

Independence Day weekend Looking ahead a bit, we will gather all together for the end of the long Independence Day weekend with a **single service for both congregations on July 7th**. We'll be at St Patrick's for Church at 11, followed by a Potluck lunch. If the weather is nice, we'll be outdoors, as there are picnic tables in the shade. (St Patrick's does not currently have an outdoor grill; if you have one going unused, we'd be glad to have it!

The Path Ahead - 6 Week Course on Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life Between the Fourth of July and Labor Day, let's gather for some adult formation. The course describes that "Participants grapple with ageism, identify changing spiritual needs, equip themselves with new prayer practices, and engage in discernment about God's continuing call." When shall we meet? Which dates work best? A second offering of this course will be set between All saints Day and Christmas for folks unable to join us this time. Please contact Julie+ with questions and to be part of the summer or fall group.

School Supplies Drive July and August will be gathering time for school supplies to benefit the elementary schools closest to each congregation (Carlin Springs and Westlawn). Lists of most-needed items and information about collection sites will be forthcoming, but it's never too early to start watching for bargain prices on supplies! We'll bless the collected items on Sunday, August 18 in order to make delivery before the first day of school.

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Honoring Families

Each year, I get asked about marking Mother's Day and Father's Day in church, so I'd like to respond before anyone gets too far in planning.

The family setting is often the first place one encounters the idea of God, and in which prayer and faith practices are taught and reinforced. Joys and sorrows within families are marked within the faith community; everything from baptisms to profession of faith at adulthood, marriage, death, joy, and sorrow.

The Episcopal Church has a broad understanding of "Family" that includes groups of all sorts: some linked across generations; some choosing to be family to each other without shared biology; families of adults; families that include children; families with fewer or larger numbers of parents; families for a season of life; families extending for multiple generations.

There are several strands in the history of Mother's Day observances. One might mark the day by returning to the church in which one was raised - the 'Mother church' - to refresh early tenets of faith. Women raising children without benefit of community were offered lessons on nutrition, child-rearing, or accessing resources. Women on opposing sides of the Civil War joined hands demanding reconciliation, a practice that is present in several places today. The practices of gift-giving swelled during the years following national recognition of Mother's Day, much to the chagrin of the people who asked for that recognition because the commercialization was counter to their original intention. Father's Day was inaugurated shortly after Mother's Day and has followed a similar path toward commercialism.

The Prayer Book does not include Collects for these holidays, though there are several prayers in circulation that speak to the tendering and mentoring done by many men and women, of their own children and of young people in their care. Some of those prayers include the acknowledgement of suffering that occurs within family systems and the pain of being ostracized within or without families of origin. We may use prayers of dedication and thanksgiving during the months of May and June, evoking gratitude for care given and received; I will select ones that do not presume the manner of tending and teaching as set by gender, or imply a narrow definition of family, precisely so that we can celebrate the many ways God invites us to find community with one another.

Rather than have small gifts for men or women who may be known as fathering or mothering children, I suggest that remembrances and thanksgivings for those who have been your guides and providers be made to the Arlington Thrive program for families in need. You may also consider a thank offering for the children who were placed in your care for a moment or a lifetime, so that other families may have what they need to provide for young people. Information on Arlington Thrive program offerings is on the bulletin board, along with envelopes that may be placed in the offering plates. If you prefer you can donate directly on the Thrive website arlingtonthrive.org

Thank you, Julie+

Live-Stream Worship Zoom access

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZ1N2ZVF5SWdNlkoZDUT09>

and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. Password: 2020. Or, zoom.com/join Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.

Emergency Pastoral Care For pastoral emergencies please call or text the Reverend Julie D. Bryant at 703-336-2256. Her email address is rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org.

Barbara Olivere maintains our common Prayer List, and sends cards to people who are ill, as well as birthday cards and anniversary cards. Please communicate with her at prayers@stjohnsarlingtonva.org. If you are able to share in this ministry, please be in touch with the Rector or Barbara, as keeping in contact with one another is particularly important to those unable to be with us in worship.

Rev. Bryant also serves as Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Falls Church. They celebrate their Sunday service at 11 am where you are welcome to attend. The church is located at 3241 Brush Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042. Their website is www.saintpatrick.us. Their YouTube Channel carries their services live as well as past weeks. The channel is <https://www.youtube.com/user/StPatsEpiscopal>.