



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
THE HOLY EUCHARIST
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024
9:30AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping at Trinity this morning! If this is your first time to worship with us, we are especially glad you are here and hope you will come again. Please know whatever your tradition, we want you to make yourself at home and participate in the service as you are moved. We also invite you to complete the “Hey There” Card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate so we may greet you personally.

Children are always welcome in worship here. However, we do have a staffed nursery directly below the sanctuary if that feels like a better fit for your family. The nursery is intended for children younger than kindergarten. An activity cart is located at the back for older children, as well as a Worship Guide. If you are curious about any part of our service, please feel free to ask questions! We enjoy sharing the meaning of what we are doing in our worship.

In this worship booklet, the congregation responds with the words in **bold print**. Please stand as you are able (indicated by the *). Unless otherwise indicated, we sing from the blue Hymnal.

Prelude

Welcome

****Entrance Hymn 1***

Father, We Praise Thee

****Opening Acclamation***

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Collect for Purity

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.

****Hymn of Praise – S280***

***Collect of the Day**

God with you. **And also with you.**

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 LESSONS

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

Spoken

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD’s for ever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

A reading from First John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Holy Gospel**

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

The Sermon

Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt

***The Nicene Creed**

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.

****Prayers of the People***

We give you thanks for those who offer their best as leaders of your people—for our bishops, priests, and deacons. Pray for those who carry out your mission under their leadership.

We pray for God's beloved church.

We offer our prayers for the leaders of our nation—for our president, our governor, Congress, and the courts of this land. Give them courage and wisdom and a heart for justice.

We pray for justice and peace.

We pray for mercy for those who suffer from hunger, in poverty, in the wake of violent storms, after earthquakes. Sustain them in their struggles and give them hope. We are thankful for compassionate people who answer their call for help.

We pray for those who suffer around the world.

We pray for those who are ill, for those who live in fear and whose spirits are restless. Give comfort for those who are dying and those who stand beside them as they find their way home. We pray for Arlene, Maureen, Janet, Rick, Marie, Jennifer, Joyce, Jacky, Gail, Alveta, Bode, Gracie, Martha, Daniel, Elaine, Judy, Cheryl, Shirley, Dan, Brian, Barbara, Lucille, Caroline, Marie, Erin, Jean, Thomas, Beth, Megan, Jim, Beatrice, Matt, Eric, Rose Marie, Larry, Jenny, Patty. We pray to you,

We pray for new and unending life in this world and the next.

We pray for all our loved ones who have died, all those gathered home to your everlasting embrace, Holy God. We mourn – with his family and friends – the loss of Jean-Maurice Calmels, faithful and humble servant of Christ. 'Rest eternal grant to Jean-Maurice, Holy God. And let light perpetual shine upon him.' May his memory, and the memories of all the Saints, be a blessing.

We pray for those who have died.

Today, we pray for the parishes of St. Mark's, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; St. James', New Haven, and the Church of Bangladesh. We also pray for Parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy.

Our hearts are full this day, Lord, as we embrace both sorrow and new life in you. We give you thanks for the gift of .song and joyful spirits

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live, says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy! Amen, Alleluia! **Alleluia! Amen!**

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Please consider giving generously to Trinity to help support our ministries. You can place an offering in the basket, use the QR code, or visit our website. www.trinitynewtownct.org



Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Music

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Talis

Doxology 380

***Great Thanksgiving**

Please remain standing as you are able.

The Lord be with you.

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 our 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.

The priest prays an appropriate preface.

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 S125

The people kneel. The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S155

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Behold what you are.

May we become what we receive.

Communion

If you prefer not to receive communion and would like a blessing, please come to the altar rail with your arms crossed over your chest. If you need communion brought to your seat, please tell an usher. Please indicate at the rail if you require a gluten-free wafer. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. If you prefer, we invite you to pray in spiritual communion.

Communion Music "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart"

Nina Porretta, Soloist

Communion Hymn

Eagles' Wings



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And
3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the
4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
fam - ine will bring you no fear;
ar - row that flies by day; Though
guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My
Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His
thou - sands fall a - bout you,
on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock in whom I trust!"
faith - ful - ness your shield.
Near you it shall not come.
dash your foot a - gainst a stone.



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

Postcommunion Prayer

Please kneel as you are able.

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**

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 everlasting 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 God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 525 *The Church's One Foundation

***Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

WOMEN & CHILDREN

Join us on Mother's Day, May 12th to sing a special song during church.

No singing experience necessary! Jennifer will teach you the song in two short rehearsals after church on Sunday April 28th and May 5th.

Meet in the Sanctuary after church.



Our service of worship is now over. Our worship through service now begins.

INVITATION TO CONFIRMATION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear Beloved of Trinity Church,

Is God calling you deeper into your Christian faith? Is the Spirit nudging you to explore the possibility of Confirmation - or Reception - into the Episcopal Church?

We have just learned that Bishop Laura Ahrens will visit Trinity Episcopal Church in Newtown on Sunday, September 15th for our 9:30 AM service. Our Bishop Suffragan in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, Bishop Ahrens has a long history with Trinity Church. It will be delightful to welcome her again!



Also ... we will have Confirmations when she visits on September 15th.

We invite teens (14+) and adults to commit to and prepare for Confirmation by our Bishop. Our spiritual journeys are unique and are often full of surprising turns. So, depending on your church background, there are three ways to make a formal affiliation with the Episcopal Church: Confirmation, Reception or Re-Affirmation of Faith. (We have many parishioners who come to us from the Catholic Church, and they are 'received' into the Episcopal Church.)

Baptism is not just for babies! If you have not yet been Baptized - this, too, is a joy open to people of all ages. Baptism and Confirmation can happen in the same service.

As the Book of Common Prayer says: "In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop."

Being ready comes at different times – and in widely varying ways - for each of us. Please reply to [Rev. Andrea](#) if you would like learn more about Confirmation. We invite you to a process of inquiry and discernment. God is searching for you.

Once we gather names, we will announce a schedule of conversations and gatherings as we prepare for this joyous day.

Eastertide Blessings,
Rev. Andrea

Today at Trinity

Presider:	The Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt
Crucifer:	Lindsey Civitelli
Lectors:	Cindy Anderau, Theodora Jameson
Intercessor:	Rebecca Merrick
Minister of Communion:	Laura Main, Joan King
Ushers:	Bob Hiruo, Jessica O'Meara
Trinity Driving:	Erin Lutz
Tech Guild:	Floyd Higgins, Phil Cruz
Trinity Café:	Jeanne Benedict
Altar Guild:	Ruth Garrett, Susan Cragin, Kelly Rowan
Organist:	Jennifer Sisco
Euphoniist:	Samuel Grummons
Nursery Assistant:	Katie Lye
The Little Pantry:	Noel, Caitlyn & Lily Bellesheim

STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Presiding Bishop:	The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Bishops of Connecticut:	The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan
Rector:	The Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt
Music Minister:	Jennifer Sisco
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Frances Chamberlain
Communications & Membership Director:	Kim Merrill
Bookkeeper:	Paige Fischer
Sexton:	Jack Qubick
Wardens:	Bob Gardner, Christina Lye
Clerk:	Tom Swetts
Treasurer:	Noel Bellesheim
Vestry:	Nancy Cole, Patrick Corrigan, Bennett Leake, Lisa Mages, Jessica O'Meara, Karen Wojtowicz
Delegates to the ECCT Convention	Bennett & Kara Leake

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

Richard Bellesheim, Trenton Ready, Ena Higgins, Peg Taylor, Jane Bojnowski

For those celebrating an anniversary this week: Phil & Ann Sandercox