

**Holy Communion**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**28 April 2024**

A warm welcome to our services of Holy Communion today. Revd Simon Winn, Vicar, is presiding and preaching at 8am and preaching at 10am. We welcome Revd Raymond Baudon as president at 10am.

**READINGS**

Acts 8: 26-40

Psalm 22: 24-30

1 John 4: 7-21

John 15: 1-8

**HYMNS**

179 God of mercy, God of grace

501 Now the green blade riseth

171 Thy hand, O God, has guided (omit \* starred verses)

205 Now thank we all our God

**COLLECT**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ

have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First 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.

**Psalm 22: 24-30**

24 For he hath not despised, nor abhorred, the low estate of the poor : he hath not hid his face from him, but when he called unto him he heard him.

25 My praise is of thee in the great congregation : my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied : they that seek after the Lord shall praise him; your heart shall live for ever.

27 All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the Lord : and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him.

28 For the kingdom is the Lord's : and he is the Governor among the people.

29 All such as be fat upon earth : have eaten and worshipped.

30 All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him : and no man hath quickened his own soul.

**Second Reading**

**1 John 4: 7-21**

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

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Gospel Reading**

**John 15: 1-8**

‘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.

**Today’s Music**

**Psalm 22: 24-30**

You can find the words on page 3

**Anthem**

***Beatus Vir -* Monteverdi**

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord : he hath great delight in his commandments.
His seed shall be mighty upon earth : the generation of the faithful shall be blessed.
Riches and plenteousness shall be in his house : and his righteousness endureth for ever.
Unto the godly there ariseth up light in the darkness : he is merciful, loving, and righteous.
A good man is merciful, and lendeth : and will guide his words with discretion.
For he shall never be moved : and the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.
He will not be afraid of any evil tidings : for his heart standeth fast, and believeth in the Lord.
His heart is established, and will not shrink : until he see his desire upon his enemies.
He hath dispersed abroad, and given to the poor : and his righteousness remaineth for ever;
his horn shall be exalted with honour.
The ungodly shall see it, and it shall grieve him: he shall gnash with his teeth, and consume away;
the desire of the ungodly shall perish.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. *Psalm 112*

**Sanctus**

**From *Coronation Mass –* Mozart**

**Communion**

***Agnus Dei* from *Coronation Mass –* Mozart**

**Organ voluntary**

***Prelude and Fugue in C Major,* BWV 547 – J.S. Bach**

**Prayers for the week**

Our prayers for Tara Odusola and Olive Otterburn as their families bring them for baptism at our service this afternoon.

Our congratulations and prayers to Elspeth Evans and Robert Bruce who were married here yesterday.

We pray for those in need: Annie Boyle, Philip Caine, Barbara Cann, Jonny Chandler, Ian Clark, Milly Edwards, Suzanne Ferguson, Kevin Garvin, Hessie Hervey, Alex Holborn, Jane Holmes, Barrie Jenkins, Beryl Jenkins, Norman Leach, Judy Mundy, Dorcas Olayiwola, Nancy O’Keefe, Eleanor O’Sullivan, Jean Penney, Sylvia, Nicholas Vine, Ross Wilson, Richard Winn, and Jane Zoe.

We remember all who have died recently. We pray especially for Peter Birse, Iris Clifford, Robert Griffiths, David Risdon, and Fuli To’o. We ask God’s blessing and comfort on all who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

**If you would like to include names of loved ones in the prayers for those in need or departed please contact David McEvoy:** **dmcevoy@btinternet.com**

**A Prayer for Peace and Hope in the Holy Land**

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world. Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine. We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin. Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Annual General Meeting**

Please do join us for the church’s Annual General Meeting in the Hall after tea/coffee.

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**Services this week**

**Sunday 28 April Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Sung Eucharist (followed by the church’s Annual General Meeting in the Hall)

2.30pm Holy Baptism

6.30pm Choral Evensong

**Monday 29 April**

8.30am Morning Prayer

**Tuesday 30 April**

8.30am Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 1 May**

8.30am Morning Prayer

**Thursday 2 May**

8.00am Holy Communion

**Sunday 5 May Sixth Sunday of Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Sung Eucharist

5.30pm *Abide*

**Walk-In Wednesdays**

Every Wednesday 10am to 12noon in the Frank Smith Room in the hall. Drop in for a cuppa and a chat.

**Choral Evensong tonight**

Join us for a service of Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) this evening at 6.30pm with music by Byrd, Bairstow and Hadley.

***Abide* next Sunday**

Join us for our monthly *Abide* service next Sunday 5 May at 5.30pm. A service of prayers, readings and reflections and music from the Taizé tradition.