

# The Holy Friendship

of

## St. James Episcopal Church

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## Grace Episcopal Church

4 Chapel Hill Road | Yantic, CT 06389  
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The

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

9:00 am virtual and in-person at St. James

11:00 am in-person at Grace

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey, Priest in Charge  
Mike LaFleur & Peter Liebert, Musicians

## The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

### Opening Hymn #448 Oh Love How Deep

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### The Gloria *(Spoken)*

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.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

### The Collect

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 Lessons

#### Acts 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.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 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.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

### 1 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.

**People: Thanks be to God**

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### John 15:9-17

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.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily**

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey

*A short silence will be kept*

**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**

Officiant: As we celebrate the paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, let us give thanks for the Risen Lord and lift up those following the way of the cross and all people everywhere.

For the holy catholic church throughout the world, sharing the death and resurrection of Christ.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Michael our presiding bishop, Ian and Laura our bishops, for presbyters and deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We hold in prayer the communities of St. James and Grace: continue to guide and nurture, oh God, this Holy friendship.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families, especially for the indigenous tribes of our region.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are oppressed, afflicted, or in need.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the dying and the dead.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our families, friends, and companions, and for all those we love.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Are there others who need our prayers this day?

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord.**

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## † THE HOLY COMMUNION †

### **Offertory Hymn: Immaculate Mary**

#### **The Presentation of the Gifts: The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,**

**Praise Him all creatures here below,**

**Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## † THE GREAT THANKSGIVING †

### **Eucharistic Prayer A**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:

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 he 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant:

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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.**

Celebrant:

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 forever. **Amen.**

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

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**

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,  
**People: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Silence*

### **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

### **The Prayer after Communion:**

Celebrant: 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 forever. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Easter 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 his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his 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 #657 Love Divine**

#### **The Dismissal**

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**



### **Announcements**

**Update!** This Sunday we are having an in-person worship service at St. James (9 am) and Grace (11 am) along with our virtual service. The safety of our parish members is our top priority, so masks and social distancing will be required. You may drop, but to ensure no one will get turned away, send an email or phone Rev. Kim at 860-967-8336 or [kim@stjamespreston.org](mailto:kim@stjamespreston.org) to ensure everyone who wants to attend will have a seat. Our worship service will continue to be streamed live on Zoom and on Facebook starting at 9 am.

This Sunday, Mother's Day there will be a **Bake Sale and Hanging Flower Sale** at the Preston City Fire House at the intersection of Route 164 & Route 165 starting at 9:00 to 2:00 pm. Hosted by Trey, Colby and Michael, funds received will support their Eagle Scout Projects.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Liz Harris 1-Mile Road Race on School House Road, Preston has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you have questions, please contact Phil Ludlow.

**POSTPONED UNTIL JULY**-The memorial service for Andrew Cannon has been postponed until July. A celebration of life will be held on May 15 at 11:30 am -1:30 pm at Prime 82 Restaurant, 181 West Town Street, Norwich. Everyone is invited to attend.

Preston Senior Affairs & Preston Parks & Rec presents a **BBQ...Music Bingo** on Wednesday, May 26 at the Preston Senior Center. Lunch will be served at 11:30 then at 12:15 it will be time to play music bingo. Advanced registration is required. To reserve your spot, call Fran Minor at 860-887-5581 x6 to leave your name, telephone # and the number of hot dogs/hamburgers you need. This event is first-come, first serve basis.

**Free CT Food Bank Drive-Thru Food Distribution:** Every Monday in Norwich (until further notice)  
Address: 28 Stonington Road, Norwich, CT 06360 - in the parking lot across from Pistol Pete's Bar & Grill  
Hours: 9:30am - 12pm (Minimal wait)

**Compline and Dwelling in the Word:** Thursdays, 7 pm via Zoom

**Guided Healing Prayers:** Fridays, 8am via Zoom.