

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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The Rev. Fr. Samuel Ndungu, Rector + The Rev. Joseph Dietz, Deacon + Derek Maninfor, Music Director

The Sixth Sunday of Easter + May 17, 2020

Mission Statement: We are an inclusive, forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks to grow in Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you." **Vision Statement:** Our vision at St. Peter's is to be an inclusive, vibrant Christian community honoring our Episcopal heritage by achieving excellence in worship, mission, education and fellowship.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter *All stand*

Officiant Lord open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia

Psalms 66:7-18

Carl, Lady, Brittney and Brandon Rennie

⁷ Bless our God, you peoples; *

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

⁸ Who holds our souls in life, *

and will not allow our feet to slip.

⁹ For you, O God, have proved us; *

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰ You brought us into the snare; *

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹¹ You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; *

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹² I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, *

which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹³ I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; *

I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁴ Come and listen, all you who fear God, *

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁵ I called out to him with my mouth, *

and his praise was on my tongue.

¹⁶ If I had found evil in my heart, *

the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁷ But in truth God has heard me; *

he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

¹⁸ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Natalie Famous, Steve, William and Clara De Prado

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13–22

Leo Guen and Sherry Ma

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel: John 14:15–21

Emerson Smith

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Sermon

Deacon Joe Dietz

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

Most merciful and Triune God, we come to you in our weakness. We come to you in our fear. We come to you with trust. For you alone are our hope. We place before you the disease present in our world. We turn to you in our time of need. Bring wisdom to doctors. Give understanding to scientists. Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity. Bring healing to those who are ill. Protect those who are most at risk. Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one. Welcome those who have died into your eternal home. Stabilize our communities. Unite us in our compassion. Remove all fear from our hearts. Fill us with confidence in your care. Oh Lord our God; ***Amen.***

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.***

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Officiant May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

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Please Continue to Support St. Peter's Church: During the current emergency situation it is as important as ever for parishioners to maintain their pledge contributions, if that is feasible. We all know that jobs and incomes may be impacted by this situation, so the request is to sustain giving if you can. In order to make that as easy as possible, St. Peter's has an online system called Realm to enable direct giving to suit your needs, either one-time payments or ongoing scheduled payments. If you would like to register to use the Realm system please send an email to Vestry accounting warden Frank Rothenberger at franklin.rothenberger@gmail.com. Pledges may also continue to be mailed to the church office.