

**The Sixth Sunday after Easter**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
14 May 2023 Year A  
**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Prelude on *Rhosymedre* R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

**\*Processional Hymn** O all ye works of God (*Irish*) **Hymnal #428**

**\*Opening Acclamation** **BCP 355**

**\*Collect For Purity**

**\*Gloria** **Hymnal #S-278**

**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 First Lesson**

**Acts 17:22-31**

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.*

Trent



- 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 al- | low 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 · u- | pon 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 · re- | freshment.
- 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 re- | jected · my | prayer, \*  
 nor with- | held his | love from | me.

## The Epistle Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

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.*

\*Sequence Come Gracious Spirit (*Mendon*)

Hymnal #512

\*The Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "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."

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you, Lord Christ*

The Sermon

The Rev. Edward Murphy

\*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.

### **\*The Prayers of the People**

We offer our prayers and thanksgivings to God, who in the midst of our trials and adversities gives us the faith to endure, responding, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

+ In thanksgiving for the holy commandments of the Lord's truth, and Jesus' eternal gift of love, that we may follow them as pathways to sanctification; let us pray.

*Hear us, O risen Christ.*

+ That we may be a community of joyous believers, bearing one another's burdens, forgiving each other's sins, responding to the needs of all, so that the world may see and know that all things are being made new through the Risen One; let us pray.

*Hear us, O risen Christ.*

+ In thanksgiving for this Eucharistic Meal, where Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us and invites us to share in heaven's feast; let us pray.

*Hear us, O risen Christ.*

+ In thanksgiving for the faith of Abraham and Sarah, and of all the faithful departed whose every breath was lived in response to God's promises; let us pray.

*Hear us, O risen Christ.*

+ That we may give honor to those considered least in our society, knowing that Jesus reveals the divine will through their lives and in the course of their abiding faithfulness; let us pray.

*Hear us, O risen Christ.*

+ That children may receive a full measure of food, education, parental love, and a religious upbringing; let us pray.

*Hear us, O risen Christ.*

+ In thanksgiving for those who volunteer their time for the ministry of Christ in this church, in our diocese, and throughout the world; let us pray.

*Hear us, O risen Christ.*

As adopted children of Jesus, through our passage in the waters of baptism, let us continue our prayers and thanksgiving.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for

Joan	Peter	Lorraine	Bob	Nathan
Richard	Dave	Edith	Judy	Carole
Shirley	Cece	Kathryn	Jeff	Carrie
Wes	Deb	Ruth	Daniel	Linda
Charles	Allison	Frank	Lynne	John
Dick	Elizabeth	Jack	John	Johnlyn
Rebecca	Katie	Julianne	Monica	
Strater	Theodore	Faicia	John	
Penny	Carol	Eleanor	Terry	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:  
Petra Hain, Christopher Way, Ayani Bunch

### Confession Of Sin

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.*

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 Peace

*Please remain in your pew. Wave!*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

### Announcements & Welcome

### Offertory Sentence

### Anthem If ye loves me

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments,  
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,  
That he may abide with you forever, ev'n the spirit of truth.

**\*Presentation Hymn** Bread of Heaven (*Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirr*)

**Hymnal #323**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

Expanded Language 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 our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** *continuing:* 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:

**Holy, holy, holy** (*Sanctus*)

**Hymnal #S-128**

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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, Jesus 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:

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ.

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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Communion of the People**

*All people are invited to the Lord's Table.*

*Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.*

*You may either intinct your wafer in the small chalice, or you may drink from the larger common chalice after consuming the wafer.*

*Please replace your mask after receiving the sacrament.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**Communion Music** Author of Life Divine (*Rhosymedre*)

**Post Communion Prayer**

*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**

**\*Recessional** Be thou my vision (*Slane*)

Hymnal #488

**Dismissal**

**Postlude** Fugue in C major BWV 547

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Acolyte:** Chris Way

**Liturgical Ministers:** Muriel Everhart, Michael Roman, Sally Clayton

**Virtual Vergers** Ben Dean, Sara VanLooy

**St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!**

**May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.**

**LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from **One License** with license # A – 724223



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**Office Hours** Monday thru Thursday 10–3

**The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector**

Gwen Freeman, Senior Warden  
Parish Administrator, Cathy Wagner  
Director of Music/Organist, Dr. Anna Stepler

Beverly Way, Junior Warden  
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail [mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org).

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter The Fledgling by contacting the church office.

**Please Join Us:**

Coffee Hour has resumed in the Parish Hall following the service. Please continue to wear your mask when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Morning Prayer Monday – Thursday at 9:30 on Facebook and YouTube.

**Forward Day by Day** for **May, June, and July** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

**Flowers:** If you wish to give Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).