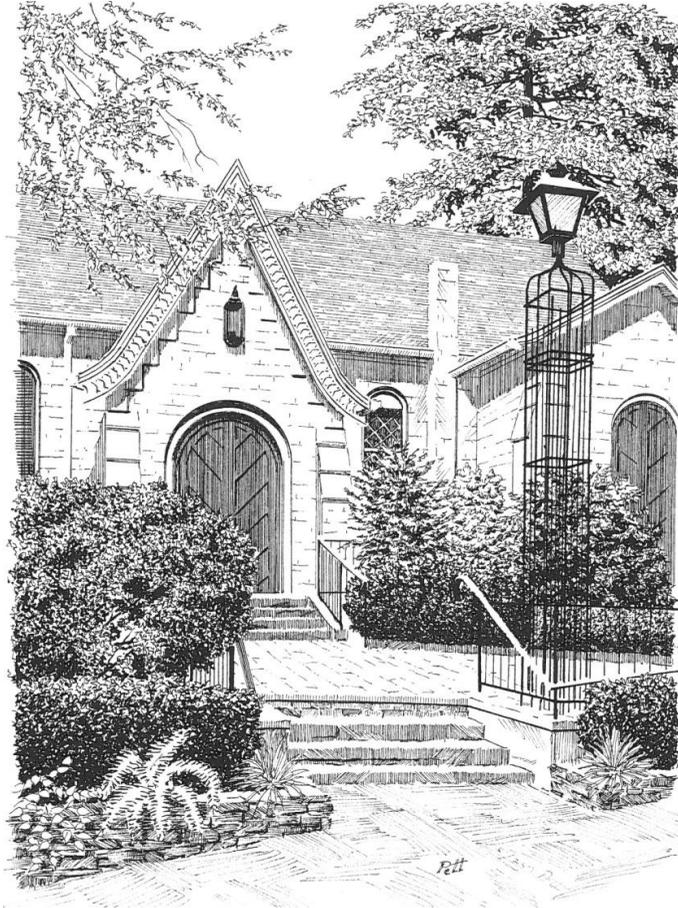


Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in His name.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

(Established 1836)
Flat Rock, North Carolina

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 am

Entrance Hymn: No. 405 All things bright and beautiful

Royal Oak

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

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.

People

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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Second 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

The Gospel: John 14:15-21

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."

After the Gospel, the Deacon says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Fr. Josh Stephens

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

Let us join together in prayer for the Church and for the world, saying, “We pray to the
Lord; *Lord hear our prayer.*”

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

For all of those elected to public office, that in this moment of crisis that they might
prove themselves prudent stewards of the public resources, set aside self-interest and
dedicate themselves to serving the common good.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

For all of those placed in harm's way through their service to the sick, especially doctors, nurses, medical technicians, and first responders.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

For the men and women in law enforcement and military services, that they will be safe on behalf of maintaining safety and public order.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

For the essential workers that are providing services to the hospitals, clinics, and providing services to all of us that are staying at home.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

For those who are unemployed, for those who live in fear of being unemployed, that their anxious hearts might be quelled by acts of generosity and compassion.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

For all of the sick, especially

Vanessa, Lori, Frances, Tom, Sue, Nancy, Cathy, Carolyn, Ernie and Paula, Tom, Ross Ann, Hariette, John, Sally, Ann, Steve, Dave, Nancy, Bob, Mary Frances, Mike, Joshua, Emily, Joanne, Robbie, and Carol.

Are there others?

(followed by a brief silence for additional names by the congregation),

that Christ the good physician might intervene and grant them healing and hope.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

We pray that the pandemic may be stopped and all those who suffer may find comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

With the unknowns that we face in the current crisis, lead us away from fear and anger by showing us your grace and comfort,

We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

For all of the dead and for those who will die alone, bereft of the comfort of family and friends.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Exchange of Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory Hymn: No. 705 As those of old their first fruits brought

Forest Green

Eucharistic Prayer D

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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.

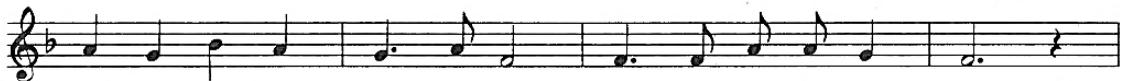
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

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.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

[Remember (NN. and) all who minister in your Church.]

[Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.]

[Remember _____.]

[Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.]

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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

People 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.

The Celebrant continues

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Sharing of Communion

Communion Music: Improvisation on "Forest Green"

Dewitt Tipton

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though we cannot consume these gifts of Bread and Wine, we thank you that your Church has received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Easter Blessing

Dismissal

Dismissal Hymn: No. 616 Hail to the Lord's Anointed Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers particular intercessions and thanksgivings to God. **Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People.** As we pray, please remember **those who are ill or with other needs:** Vanessa Wittman, Lori Kristen Raines, Erica, Frances Tindal, Tom, Sue, Nancy Taylor, Cathy Gibson, Carolyn Maloy, Ernie and Paula, Tom Joiner, Ross Ann McKee, Hariette Adams Graham, John Castline, Sally Books, Ann Armstrong, Steve Jones, Dave VonHolle, Nancy VonHolle, Bob Carter, Mary Frances, Mike Woodard, Joshua Verner, Emily Tobin, Joanne Adams, Robbie Brake, and Carol Hawbaker.

WE GIVE THANKS to Patrice German for arranging the flowers for this Sunday.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS
PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731 828-693-9783

Website: www.stjohnflatrock.org

Worship Services 8:45 & 11:00am

Children's Sunday School: 10:00am (during school year only)/Adult Sunday School: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service – Wednesdays 10:30am in the Parish Hall Office Hours- 8:30am-3:30pm M-F

In case of pastoral emergencies:

Father Josh Stephens 828-808-5044 Deacon Sandy Rex 847-507-7212

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org

The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com

Dewitt Tipton, Organist/Director of Music: dewitt.tipton@furman.edu

Diana Byrd, Youth and Families Coordinator: byrddd@gmail.com

Leslie Stott, Parish Office Administrator: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Tracie Lutz, Administrative Assistant for Finance: aafinance@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Senior Warden: Carol Rector

Junior Warden: Jerry Tanner

2020

Elizabeth Christenbury

Greg Newbold

Carol Rector

Michael Shannon

2021

Jerry Tanner

Cynthia Easterling

Janet Johnson

Shelley Schiro

2022

Terry Enslin

Marie Hyder

Gibson Sims

Dick Zecher

PARISH OFFICERS

Bill Farrell, Asst. Treasurer

Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Robin Howe

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Mary Anne Inglis

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Jodi Sundeen

Historic Churchyard Committee: Ken Jones

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer, Judy Petersen

Outreach: Tom Deyerle

Personnel: Margaret Barker

Stewardship: David Christenbury

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Lynn Savage

Altar Guild: Sandra Jeffery, Marti Smith

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: Albert Gooch

Endowment Trustees: Tom Griswold

Episcopal Church Women (ECW): Kathy Newbold

Eucharistic Visitors: Dick Zecher

Flower Guild: Bay Chamberlain

Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry & Jan Tanner

Gatekeepers: Albert Gooch, Dick Zecher

Greeters: Betsy Tibbs

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Lay Readers: Susan MacDonald

Meal Ministry: Kathy Newbold

Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Newsletter Editor: Leslie Stott

Ushers: Tom Deyerle, Bettie Orr

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe