

## St James's Church, Piccadilly

### The Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday 2nd May 2021 at 11am

WITH A CONGREGATION IN THE CHURCH BUILDING AND LIVE ON YOUTUBE

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#### THE WELCOMING OF THE PEOPLE

*Please stand at 11am as the priest proclaims*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*The priest welcomes all to the in-person and online service and invites those attending to say where they are joining from in the YouTube chat function.*

#### OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#### PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

*The deacon says*

Let us come to Christ, the resurrection and the life, trusting in the promise of forgiveness and the peace the world cannot give.

Ever-loving God,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be,  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you our God.  
Amen.

#### THE ABSOLUTION

*The priest says*

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free. May you know you are forgiven and be at peace.  
Amen.

#### THE GLORIA (*Peruvian*)

*The Cantor sings*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
To God be glory for ever!  
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen,  
alleluia amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!

To God be glory for ever!  
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen,  
alleluia amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the  
Spirit!

To God be glory for ever!  
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen,  
alleluia amen.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **The Collect (Prayer for the Day)**

Living God,  
who with great love gladdened the  
disciples  
with the sight of Christ risen from the  
dead.  
give us such knowledge of your presence  
with us,  
that our lives may be transformed  
to live out your forgiveness and peace  
and serve your purposes in righteousness  
and truth;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## **FIRST READING**

### **Acts 8.26-end**

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.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## **HYMN**

*Please join in singing the hymn at home.*

[Tune: Woodlands; Words: J. Boyce-Tillman  
(b. 1943)]

**We sing a love that sets all people free,  
That blows like wind, that burns like**

scorching flame,  
enfolds like earth, springs up like water  
clear.  
Come, living love, live in our hearts  
today.

We sing a love that seeks another's  
good,  
that longs to serve and not to count the  
cost,  
a love that, yielding, finds itself made  
new.  
Come, caring love, live in our hearts  
today.

We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid  
to be itself, despite another's wrath,  
a love that stands alone and  
undismayed.  
Come, strength'ning love, live in our  
hearts today.

We sing a love that, wand'ring, will not  
rest  
until it finds its way, its home, its source,  
through joy and sadness pressing on  
refreshed.  
Come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts  
today.

We seek a burning, fiery, Holy One,  
that seeks out shades of ancient  
bitterness.  
Transfigure these as Christ in every  
heart,  
come, joyful love, live in our hearts  
today.

*Please remain standing.*

#### **THE GOSPEL** **John 15.1-8**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.  
**Glory to you O Lord.**

'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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

#### **SERMON** The Revd Lucy Winkett

*A period of silence is kept for personal  
reflection.*

*Please stand.*

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Iona Community)*

**We believe in God,  
maker and sustainer of all life.**  
**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,  
the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.**  
**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.**

**He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life.  
Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Led by a member of the congregation.*

*Please kneel or sit as you wish.*

### **THE PEACE**

*The priest says*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said 'peace be with you'. Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

*The deacon says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The priest says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please share the Peace in a socially distanced way if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat function if you are online.*

*A chant is sung*

Halle Halle Halle lujah! (rpt)

### **PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

*The priest says*

Creator God,  
give us a heart for simple things:  
Love and laughter, bread and wine,  
tales and dreams.  
Fill our lives with green and growing hope;  
make us a people of justice whose song is Alleluia and whose name breathes love.  
**Amen.**

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...*

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...*

### **SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS**

*All say*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*All say*

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with: "... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

*The deacon says*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, all say*

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in your own language.*

*The priest says*

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The Bread is broken and the priest says*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, and his blood which was shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

*During Communion, the Lay Singers will sing The Song Of Ruth by David Ogden.*

*If you are attending the service from home, please make use of these prayers as you find helpful for you in making your spiritual communion.*

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

*inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)*

Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,  
for all the benefits you have given me  
for all the pains and insults you have borne  
for me.

Since I cannot now receive you  
sacramentally,

I ask you to be present with me spiritually  
in my heart.

O most merciful redeemer,  
friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.

Amen.

### **Prayers for use during Communion**

Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel 'I am with you always'. Be with me as part of this community today in this Eucharist; Hear my prayers for others and for myself. May I bind myself to you, in communion with all that lives this day, knowing that nothing can separate me from your love. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you,  
and to know that you are with me now.  
Help me to know that all are yours,  
and you are ours,  
in this Eucharist and for ever.  
Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of life and love,  
we thank you for feeding us with the body  
and blood of Jesus Christ.

As we have received these gifts of your  
creation, may we go out with joy and  
gratitude to live as witnesses to your  
resurrection hope and justice for the  
whole earth.

**Amen.**

*Notices are given by the priest.*

## FINAL HYMN

*Please join in singing the hymn at home.*

[Tune: Here I am; Words: Daniel L. Schutte  
(b. 1947) based on Isaiah 6.]

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

***Refrain:***

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.**

**I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

## THE BLESSING

*The priest says*

God the Creator;  
by whose love Christ was raised from the  
dead,  
open to you the gates of everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

God the Son;  
who in bursting from the grave has  
overcome  
the forces of death and hell,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.  
**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit;  
who filled the disciples with the life of the  
risen Christ  
empower you and fill you with peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
be with you today and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in the peace of Christ.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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