

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Sharpsburg, Maryland

Rite II 28 April 2024

Holy Eucharist: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude: *Awake, My Heart, With Gladness* by Wilbur Held
 Processional Hymn H 296
 Opening Acclamation BCP 355
 Collect for Purity BCP 355
 Gloria H S280
 Collect of the Day (*Remain Standing*)

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson (*sit*) Insert
 Psalm Insert
 Second Lesson Insert
 Sequence Hymn (*stand*) H 513
 The Gospel Lesson Insert
 The Sermon (*sit*) Fr. Newlun
 The Nicene Creed BCP 358
 The Prayers of the People, Form VI (*Kneel or Stand*) BCP 392
 Confession of Sin BCP 393
 The Peace (*Stand*)
 Announcements

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Sam Frickey by his daughter Paula Frickey.

The Holy Communion

Offertory: *Wondrous Love* by Arlen Clark
 Doxology: H 380 st. 3
 The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B BCP 367
 Sanctus H S129
 The Lord's Prayer BCP 364
 The Breaking of the Bread H S155

Communion of the People of God
All baptized persons may receive holy communion in this church.

Hymn during Communion H 204
 The Post-Communion Prayer BCP 365

Benediction and Dismissal

Closing Hymn H 529
 The Blessing
 Dismissal (*Remain Standing*) BCP 366
 Postlude: *Now The Green Blade Rises* by Carl Schalk

Service Participants

Rector	The Rev. Connor Newlun
Organist	Meya Collings
Chalicer/Acolyte	Gary Candelaria
Greeter	Michelle Shaw/Donna Miner
Lector/Intercessor	Peyton Doub/Robbie Shaw
Camera Operator	Michael Arant
Altar Guild	Donna Miner/Kathy Anderson

Vestry

2022 – 2024: Sandy Miner, Liz Partlow and Tom Settle
 2023 – 2025: Michael Arant and Anne-Marie McCullough
 2024 – 2026: Heidi Tennant and Tom Wibberley

Leadership

Senior Warden: Sandy Miner *Junior Warden:* Randy Short
Treasurer: George Ashbaugh *Registrar:* Anne-Marie McCullough
ECW President: Rebecca Bright-Willis *Altar Flowers:* Tim Valerio
Altar Guild: Tim Valerio

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- **ECW meets next Sunday May 3 after worship.**
- **Community Breakfast:** We will be serving breakfast Sunday May 3 at 9:20. All are welcome, bring family and friends.
- **Love for Children Collection:** For the week of April 28 and May 5 we are asking for Canned tuna or chicken, soups, mac n' cheese, canned pasta
Other staple items: Canned chili, Canned green vegetables, oatmeal packets, cereal, Fruit cups, applesauce, protein bars, granola bars.
- **UTO Spring Ingathering:** Collecting at home from April 14 to May 12. On May 12 checks payable to “St. Paul’s ECW” with UTO in the memo can go in the alms basin. This year’s UTO grants will focus on welcoming the stranger.
- **The Flying Boxcars** is the new baseball team at the new stadium in Hagerstown, and the Episcopal churches in Washington county have come together to sponsor a game and fireworks. It is Friday, June 14. Our new Bishop Carrie will be there, and she’s going to throw out the first pitch, and the National Anthem will be sung by choir members from all the churches. We are preordering tickets so we can sit together and take advantage of a discounted price. Tickets are \$10 if you preorder and \$14 at the gate. Sandy Miner is handling the preorder tickets.
- **New Bible Study on Discipleship began April 25.** For six Thursdays we will learn how early believers changed their lifestyle and read what Jesus actually said about following him. Thursdays 7pm on google meet meet.google.com/ugx-rrwr-odb and password is ugx-rrwr-odb.

Fr. Connor Newlun is available for pastoral care, visitation to sick and shut-ins, and emergencies. He can be reached by phone at 703-470-9638 or email: priest@stpaulssharpburg.com. He is at the church most Thursdays 11am-1pm.

Scripture Lessons: 5Easter, Year B

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward 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.

Psalm 22:24-30

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those
who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn
to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow
before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down
in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet
unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

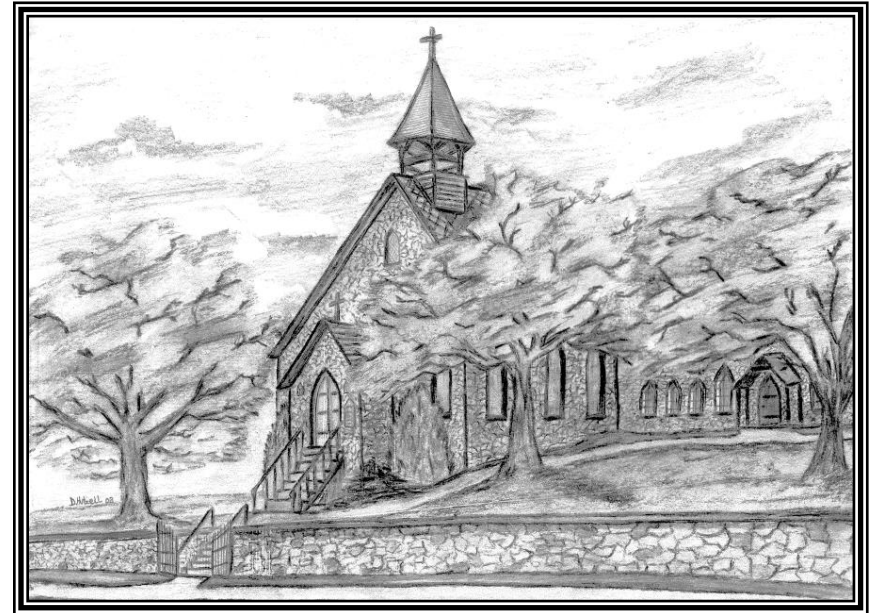
Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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."

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



*Now faith, hope and love abide these three
and the greatest of these is love. 1Cor. 13.13*



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