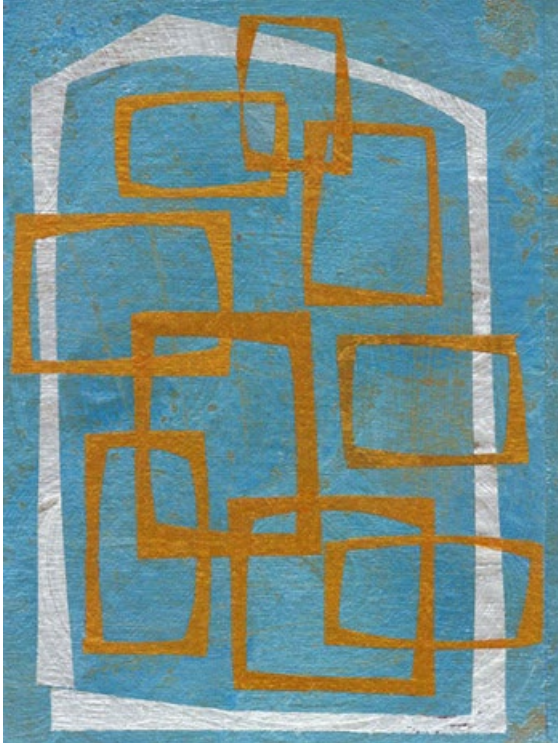


# **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## **MAY 7, 2023**



**“Many Rooms”- Jan L. Richardson**

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” – John 14:1-4

**ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A**

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks  
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

**(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)  
LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)**

*In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.*

### **The Ringing of the Bell**

**Prelude**

**Brad Volland, organ**

**Opening Hymn**

**The Church's one foundation**

**H 518**

### **The Word of God**

**Opening Acclamation**

**BCP 355**

**Hymn of Praise**

**From all that dwell below the skies**

**H 380**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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.**

### **A reading from The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 7, verses 55-60.**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a

loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 31 :1-5, 15-16 In te, Domine, serve**

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

**2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

**4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

**15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save 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 forever. Amen.**

**A Reading from The First Letter of Peter, Chapter 2, verses 2-10.**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**On Christ the solid rock I stand**

**LEVAS 99**

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

**Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Tom Hughes**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**The Prayers of the People**

With all our heart and with all our mind let us pray to the Lord.

May our hearts be untroubled, for we know that you have prepared a dwelling place for us, eternal in the heavens, and that you will come again and take us to yourself, **for in you we have seen our Father.**

May we remember that you are the cornerstone of this church. Bless us and build us into a spiritual house and a royal priesthood, **for we are your people, full of praise and thanksgiving.**

May all war and conflict on this earth come to an end. May we work to end all forms of violence in our hearts, our homes, and our communities. Until your reign of peace comes on this earth, we pray for the safety of those serving in the armed forces, especially those on our prayer list. We pray for the unity of all peoples. May we proclaim your mighty acts, **for you have called us to be your people of light.**

May our President, all the leaders of the nations, and all in authority, serve you and their people with justice, mercy, and with the common good in mind; **for the sake of your name, lead them and guide them.**

May you deliver us from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, **for we trust in you.**

May we have the wisdom and will to conserve this good earth, our home in this life, **for you have called us to care for it and protect it as your own perfect creation.**

May our hearts open with kindness and understanding for the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our prayer list, **for you have shown us your lovingkindness, so that we may love and care for one another.**

May we care for the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, **for you call us to remember and to care for them.**

May we end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, **for our times are in your hand, and we take refuge in you, both now and in the life to come.**

In the communion of Julian of Norwich and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another all our lives, to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, were with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution** BCP 360

**The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings** BCP 830 #51/431

**Offertory** **Alleluia, Alleluia!** **St Peter's Choir**

**The Holy Communion**

The Offertory

Eucharistic Prayer C BCP 369

Sanctus S 125

The Lord's Prayer BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread BCP 364

The Communion of the People of God

**Communion Hymn** **This is the hour** **H 316**

**Post Communion Hymn** **In my life, Lord, be glorified** **LEVAS 216**

**Post-Communion Prayer** **BCP 365**

**The Blessing**

May we diligently seek our risen Lord

And find him traveling beside us along the easy and rough pathways of  
our lives

To welcome him in when the darkness comes

To be our light and to break our bread

And to bring us to everlasting life

And the blessing of God Almighty, the blessing of our risen Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ

And the blessing of the Holy Spirit

Go forth from this place with you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Rise up, ye saints of God!**

**H 551**

**Dismissal**



## Announcements

**Welcome to St Peter's.** May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

**The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church.** Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

**Happy Birthday –Karissa Fox, May 8**

**Happy Anniversary! Alex and Nancy Long (May 7)**

--May 7, Worship, On YouTube,

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

--May 8, Psalms Study, every Monday night from 7-8PM on Zoom,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87304189375?pwd=RHRlUUrSVU1K1JPWmhiMlc4Z2xpUT09> Meeting ID: 873 0418 9375 Passcode: 092098

--Bible Study, May 10, 10am-12pm. Parish House. Readings are at this link: [http://lectionarypage.net/YearA\\_RCL/Easter/AEaster6\\_RCL.html](http://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Easter/AEaster6_RCL.html)

**-Shred-it has been delayed and will now be on Friday, May 19.** The time will be announced. Dispose of sensitive documents safely and securely, and free up needed space at home or work. **Start or continue collecting!**

**Easter Tide – “50 Days celebrating the season”** from Forward Movement <https://50days.org/>. Sign up for daily email meditations.

**May 8<sup>th</sup> is Julian of Norwich's Feast Day on the church calendar.**

Julian's book, **Revelations of Divine Love**, was based on a series of fifteen visions she received on the 8th of May 1373, 650 years ago, after a nearly fatal illness. "Even in her lifetime, she was famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor...Julian referred to Christ as 'our courteous Lord.' Many have found strength in the words the Lord had given her: "I can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and thou canst see for thyself that all manner of things shall be well.'" (From [Holy Women, Holy Men](#))

**Coming up—Celebrate Pentecost! Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Service will be followed by lunch and music by the Little Falls Bluegrass Band.**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
**823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535**  
**Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908**  
**The Vestry**  
**Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)**  
**Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)**  
**Linda Upshaw (2026)**  
**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar**  
**Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach**  
**Junior Warden, Cookie Davis**  
**Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist**  
**The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector**  
**The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus**  
**(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com**  
**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

#### **Prayer List**

**Marion Mahoney, Ken Pogue, Johnny Davis, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Alice Hughes, Jim Heimbach, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Barbara and Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom**

**Kathleen Curran** (Matt Hood's aunt), **T. C. Collins, Wayne Cohen** (cousin of Andrea Pogue), **Jimmy and Nancy Davis** (Johnny Davits' brother and sister in law), **Herb Collins, Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Bethune Andrews, Orville Watson** (Linneth Feleciano's mother, sisters and brother), **Sylvia Coleman, Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo's daughter and son), **Ed and Doris Hooker, Milijana Grayson, Nika Corwin** (friend of Marcia Kole), **Nathaniel Schakenberg, Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Julie Davis** (sister and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

#### **Serving in the Armed Forces**

<b>PJ Koons</b>	<b>Scott Estes</b>	<b>Cliff Lance</b>
<b>Steven Lee</b>	<b>Greg Merkl</b>	<b>Grace Grimaldi</b>
<b>Alexis Rye</b>	<b>Michael Hobbs</b>	<b>Alex Long V</b>