

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 2023



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." John 14:15-17

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sixth 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

Opening Hymn

Now the green blade riseth

H 204

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Hymn of Praise

**For the beauty of the earth
(sung to hymn tune Dix)**

H 416

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 17, verses 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.

Psalm 66: 7-18 *Jubilate Deo*

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 allow 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 upon 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 refreshment.

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 rejected my prayer, *

nor withheld his love from 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 3, verses 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 Hymn

O love of God, how strong and true

H 455

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.

Sermon

The Rev. Catherine Hicks

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

O God, as your disciples of this age, we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe in which we are privileged to live and our neighbors with whom we share it. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for this earth, your own creation. Give us the desire to love it, to care for it, to protect it, and to treasure its rich abundance. May we be faithful stewards of your good gifts. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who search for you. May they find their way to you and in you. May we sing your praise and tell the stories of all that you have done for us. Open our eyes to find you among us as we share your love with others. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the nations, and their leaders. We also pray for those who are oppressed by governments or institutions, for those whose voices continue to be unheard or unbelieved, and for those with no one on their side. We pray for refugees and immigrants around the world, that they may someday find homes of refreshment and safety. Bless us with a yearning for justice and the strength to persevere as we work toward your coming realm on this earth. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are hungry, especially those who come to our food distribution each month. We pray for those who worry each day about how they will care for their families. May we love and care for one another and find our sustenance in you. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and pray for our mothers and for all who have loved and cared for us as mothers in this life. We pray for mothers who rejoice; shield them. We pray for mothers who are weary, frustrated and overwhelmed; give them rest. We pray for those who have lost children; comfort them. May we love one another with your own tender compassion. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer the violence and scars of war, for all who serve in the armed forces and for their families, especially those on our prayer list, and for all who live in war-torn places. Give them courage in the face of fear, and in times of trouble do not let their feet slip. Bless us with your vision of peace. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all on our prayer list, especially for Fred Pannell, for the Linne von Bergs, for Charlene Schakenberg, Becky Fisher's mother, for

Kelly Paterino, daughter of the Wisdoms and for the Patterson family.
May they find healing and solace in your love and care for them. **Lord,
in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We remember before you all who have died, and pray for all who will
die today, that they may know your peace. Bless us with the gift of
faith, that we may know you and love you, and enjoy life eternal shared
with you. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our
minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be
wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you, and then use us, we pray you, as
you will and always to your glory and the welfare of your people;
through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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

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	More love to thee, O Christ LEVAS 87

Post-Communion Prayer BCP 365

The Blessing

May there always be infinite acres of sky above us.
May there always be the story of the earth beneath us.
May there always be the song of the air between us.
And may the love that shook creation from God's hand,
And destroyed the power of death,
Shake us alive,
That we may walk in God's way,
Now and always.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!

H 191

Dismissal

Resources for The Prayers of the People:

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 1, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

The Book of Common Prayer

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>

Today is Rogation Sunday. The Rogation Days, the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day, originated in France in 470 after a series of natural disasters which caused widespread suffering. The Rogation Days remind us to pray for the productivity of the earth, for human needs, and for human labor.

Happy Birthday – Michael Fox 5/15, Karen Long 5/15, Bill Wick 5/19

--May 14, Worship, On YouTube,

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

--May 15, Psalms Study, every Monday night from 7-8PM on Zoom,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87971694710?pwd=MDJlVndkTlZBZCtLM2FpbVl6emptUT09> Meeting ID: 879 7169 4710 Passcode: 803192

This is a new link.

--Bible Study, May 17, 10AM-12PM. Parish House. Easter 7

http://lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Easter/AEaster7_RCL.html

--Village Harvest Wed, May 17, 3pm,-5PM. Please email Andrea to volunteer at wakepogue.public@gmail.com, or (540) 847-9002. Pack bags 1-3PM, Deliver food to clients' cars 3-5PM.

--Thurs, May 18, 7PM. Ascension Day service at St George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA. All are welcome.

--"Thy Kingdom Come", May 18-28. For the past 7 years, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby has been bringing the world together in prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. **Activities here –** <https://news.churchsp.org/thykingdomcome2023/> . **Pray for 5 people, check out the prayer journal, read the prayers Ascension to Pentecost.**

--Shred-it, this Fri. May 19. The time will be announced. Dispose of sensitive documents safely and securely. **Donations welcome.**

--Coming up! Pentecost! Sunday, May 28th. Bring a dish to share for lunch after church. The Little Falls Bluegrass Band will provide music for this celebration.

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

Fred and Crystal Pannell, Marion Mahoney, Ken Pogue, Johnny Davis, 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

Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schakenberg, (Becky Fisher's mother), Kelly Paterino, 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), Harvey Yarus (friend 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)

Serving in the Armed Forces

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