

# ST. JAMES HOUSE OF PRAYER EPISCOPAL CHURCH TAMPA, FL

The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 17, 2020

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*We praise God for the Resurrection of His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ!*

Opening Hymn

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Hymnal 390

*Descant*

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -  
 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with  
 a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his  
 health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

*Hymn continues on the next page*

peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.  
 or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

**Easter Acclamation**

Book of Common Prayer, 355

*Officiant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**The Collect for Purity** (*in unison*)

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

**Gloria in excelsis** (*sung*)

*setting: Robert Powell*

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.

### The Collect of the Day

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* 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**

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Lord speaks to us in scripture and preaching about how He has saved all humankind from the power of death by raising His Son to life again. We respond by affirming our faith, praying for the world, and greeting one another in His Name.*

#### A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**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.”

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 66:7-18**

- 7 **B**less 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.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

*How firm a foundation*

Hymnal, 637

*Descant*

5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
 2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
 4 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

5 soul, \_\_\_\_\_ to shake, no,

1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
 2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

**The Holy Gospel**

John 14:15-21

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

*People* **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."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev'd Sonia Sullivan Clifton

*After the Sermon, we take a few moments to reflect on God's word to us.*

## **The Nicene Creed** *(in unison)*

**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**

*In the silence which follows each petition, you are welcome to add your own intercessions:  
in the silence of your heart, aloud in your home,  
or (if watching the live stream) by typing them in the chat/comments section.*

Let us now demonstrate the hope that fills our hearts by turning to God in prayer, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all ministers of the gospel and those whom they serve, that they may preach the word boldly and without apology, remembering especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Steve, our priest; Lynn, our deacon; and all the baptized of St. James House of Prayer. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all leaders of nations, remembering especially Donald, President of the United States; that they may be unrelenting in their quest for peace. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all who celebrate special days or special blessings, that they may bless our God, remembering especially Joshua Joseph as he celebrates his birthday. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all the suffering peoples of this world, especially those for whom God seems most remote. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all the sick and the dying, that they may find life remembering especially Betsy, Father Al, Bernice, Faye, Lucia, Eugene, Denise, Shirly, and Lydia. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, the Church's newest members, that they may never cease to praise you for the hope that fills their hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember all who have died, that they may live because our Savior Christ lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, it is in the power of your abundant and life-giving Spirit that we call upon you in prayer. Deepen our hope in your presence and your promise. Hear us in the tender love of your Son Jesus Christ, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

BCP, 360

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Deacon and People*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Officiant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**The Offertory** *The Officiant says a sentence from Scripture to begin the Offertory. An anthem or music may follow.*

### **Offertory Anthem**

*All Good Gifts* (from *Godspell*)  
Steve Clifton, *guitar and voice*

M. Claudius/S. Schwartz

***All are encouraged to make an offering in thanksgiving for all the blessings God has bestowed.***

*Gifts may be made on the parish website, sjhoptpa.org, or by mail to:*

St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church  
2708 N. Central Ave., Tampa FL 33602

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

**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 Easter Blessing** (*pronounced by the Priest*)

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the flock, through the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

Hymnal 657

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## The Easter Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**