



S E R V I C E   O F   W O R S H I P

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Eleven o'clock

The Jesus Truth, only when it is wedded to the Jesus Way, produces the Jesus Life.

-Eugene Peterson

### Entrance

PRELUDE

Adagio (*Sonata No.1 in F Minor*)

Felix Mendelssohn

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: In the wilderness, water brings life.

People: **Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

Minister: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

People: **Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

Minister: Here is the water of life and the eternal word that feeds.

People: **Together we praise the vine that gives all goodness.**

\*HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,  
 4. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5. For thy church, that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,  
 6. For thy - self, best Gift Di - vine, to the world so free - ly given,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies;  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight;  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild;  
 of - fer - ing up - on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love;  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

#### Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.  
 \* Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Words: Folliot Pierpoint, 1864

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861

DIX

### PRAYER FOR CENTERING

Minister: Let us pray, saying “yes” to God’s invitation to abide within God’s own loving presence, trusting to God all of who we are.

People: **Wondrous Vinegrower,**  
 you make all things new in water and Word,  
 feeding your people with love, joy, and peace.  
 Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings.  
 Teach us to love what you have commanded  
 and to prune what does not nourish your creation.

*Silent Prayer*

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
step from the past and leave be - hind

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.

Words: Brian Wren, 1978  
Music: Carlton Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS

Minister: God speaks to us, claiming us and joining us  
to Christ, as branches to a vine.

People: We believe the promise given to us!  
In Christ, we are made one with God forever. Amen!

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,  
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Am Em/G F Em Dm G

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

C F C Am Dm/F

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

D7/F# C/G F G7 C

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Music: Trad. Gaelic Melody, harm. Carlton Young, 1988

BUNESSAN

## \*THE PEACE

*Children are invited to Sunday School on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor; nursery care on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.*

## MINISTRY UPDATES

## Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

John Paul Cleveland

Come, Holy Spirit,  
 that through your word we may be guided  
 into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, 8:26–40:

Then 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, the 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM      Sorida (A Zimbabwe Greeting)      Words & Music: Rosephanye Powell

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN, 15:1-8:

“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.

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN

## Rise Up, Ye Saints of God

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Rise Up, Ye Saints of God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1. Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with less - er things.  
2. Rise up, ye saints of God! The king-dom tar - ries long.  
3. Rise up, ye saints of God! The church for you doth wait,

Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings.  
Bring in the day of broth- er-hood and end the night of wrong.  
her strength un - e - qual to her task; rise up, and make her great!

Text: William Merrill  
Music: William Walter, 1894

FESTAL SONG

MESSAGE

What Stands in Your Way?

Rev. Dr. Cathy S. Gilliard

## Responding

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Through our offerings, O God,  
give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort.  
Guide us that we may abide and grow in you.  
Make our many gifts one offering for the world;  
in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

*(Please place your gift in the offering receptacle as it is passed. Alternatively, you may make your offering via your smartphone by texting "CCNYC" to 77977 to give.)*

### OFFERING ANTHEM Christ Hath a Garden

English folk song; arr. Gerald Near  
text: Robert Bridges after Isaac Watts

Christ hath a garden walled around,  
A paradise of fruitful ground,  
Chosen by love and fenced by grace  
From out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand,  
There planted by his mighty hand;  
By Eden's gracious streams, that flow  
To feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav'n and bear  
Their sweetest perfume through the air:  
Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom,  
Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet  
Among the trees that he hath set;  
That he may evermore be seen  
To walk amid the springing green.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, who makes us one,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Going Forth

\*HYMN

Go Make of All Disciples

1. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We hear the call, O Lord,  
2. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples," bap - tiz - ing in the name  
3. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We at thy feet would stay  
4. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We wel - come thy com - mand.

that comes from thee, our Fa - ther, in thy e - ter - nal Word.  
of Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, from age to age the same.  
un - til each life's vo - ca - tion ac - cents thy ho - ly way.  
"Lo, I am with you al - ways." We take thy guid - ing hand.

In - spire our ways of learn - ing through ear - nest, fer - vent prayer,  
We call each new dis - ci - ple to fol - low thee, O Lord,  
We cul - ti - vate the na - ture God plants in ev - ery heart,  
The task looms large be - fore us; we fol - low with - out fear;

and let our dai - ly liv - ing re - veal thee ev - ery - where.  
re - deem - ing soul and bod - y by wa - ter and the Word.  
re - veal - ing in our wit - ness the mas - ter teach - er's art.  
in heaven and earth thy pow - er shall bring God's king - dom here.

Words: Leon Adkins, 1955  
Music: Henry Smart, 1835

LANCASHIRE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Finale (*Sonata No.1 in F Minor*)

Felix Mendelssohn



**Retirement Celebration for Rev. Dr. Cathy Gilliard - Sunday, May 5, 4:00pm** at Park Avenue United Methodist Church (106 East 86th Street). Rev. Dr. Gilliard was a part of the clergy staff of Christ Church for many years until her appointment to Park Avenue UMC. All are invited to this celebration of Cathy's rich, creative, and deep-hearted ministry as she moves into the retired relationship. Please contact Maureen Donohue at Park Avenue UMC with any questions: [maureen@paumcny.org](mailto:maureen@paumcny.org).

**Service Opportunity on May 5, 1pm** - Help Adoptable Rescued NYC Cats & Kittens Experience Loving Humans! You are cordially invited to join Christ Church's Creation Care volunteer team for a special free private event experience at the Meow Parlor's brand-new expanded cat cafe & rescue shelter in Chinatown! Led by Jackie DeGroat and Jay Rice, our group departs after our 11am Sunday worship service for a lunch hour of playing with and socializing adoption-ready rescued NYC kittens and cats and mingling with fellow animal lovers connected to Christ Church. Tickets are free; seats are limited. Details & logistics to be provided upon booking. Send ticket request & any questions to Christ Church's Creation Care Team ([jacquelyn.bonner@outlook.com](mailto:jacquelyn.bonner@outlook.com)).

**Nido Workday** - On Saturday, **May 11 (10am - 1pm)**, we will be meeting at Christ Church Washington Heights to help Nido with projects to set them up for the future of their work. Anything from helping organize their baby boutique to cleaning and renovating several spaces in their building.

**Interfaith programming with Temple Emanu-El** - Our neighbor Temple Emanu-El is offering a variety of programming opportunities to connect with folk from across faith traditions through dialogue groups about everything from meditation to making meals together. Christ Church NYC is partnering to host the monthly Queering the Bible & Beyond dialogue group; below is information about each of the upcoming opportunities. For more information, contact Dr. Alyssa Cady, Director of Center for Interfaith Dialogue, at [Alyssa.Cady@emanuelynyc.org](mailto:Alyssa.Cady@emanuelynyc.org). For a full schedule please scan the QR code



**Morning Prayer** - Daily, **Monday through Friday at 8am**. Everyone is invited to join the Christ Church family for a short time of prayer and reflection each morning. Join the call via the events page on our website!

**Children and Families** - Spring Picnic in Central Park: Families, let's join together for a Central Park Picnic, **Today**. Bring your lunches to church and we'll gather in the Narthex **after the 11am** service and walk to the park together for some fellowship and fun. If the weather is bad, we'll have an indoor picnic on floor 3.

**Every Sunday** during the **11am** Service, preschool through fifth grade children are welcome to join us for Sunday School on the third floor. Nursery Care is available on the fifth floor.

**Vacation Bible School at Christ Church!** - Kids ages 3 to 11 are invited to join us, **August 26-30**, for a week long camp called Hero's Hotline. Our Heroes, the kids, will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook, the Bible! We will discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of Bible Heroes with stories from the Old and New Testaments. We will learn to work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us! All are welcome! More details to come. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, reach out to Lydia Prather, [Lydia@christ-churchnyc.org](mailto:Lydia@christ-churchnyc.org).

**Sharing Table Outreach** - Sharing Table serves a hot meal and toiletries to over 130 guests each week, and we always need new volunteers! A lead volunteer will give you an orientation on-site. Volunteers arrive at **3:00pm** to help make sandwiches and prepare for guests' arrival. Doors open to guests at 4:00pm and dinner is served at 4:30pm. If you'd like to sign up or get more information, please see our website!

## Visit our Website

[christchurchnyc.online](http://christchurchnyc.online)

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### Christ Church Staff :

Ms. Roseann DeGennaro, Church Administrator

Dr. Steve Pilkington, Director of Music and Organist

Mr. Brandon Batson, Director of Communication and Program

Ms. Lydia Prather, Coordinator of Ministry for Children and Families

Mr. Robert Heckner, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Tyler Weakland, Director of the Bell Choir

Ms. Amanda Smith, Director of the Parish Choir and Children's Choir

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Bauman, Senior Minister Emeritus

The Rev. Tyler Heston, Minister for Spiritual Formation & LGBTQIA+ Development

The Rev. Mickey Correa, Minister of Christ Church Washington Heights

The Rev. Dr. Eric Park, Senior Minister

## The Mission of Christ Church

We seek to love God above all things, and our neighbors as ourselves.

*Christ Church Is A Reconciling Congregation:  
Open, Welcoming, And Affirming.*

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