

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## The Sixth Sunday of Easter

**May 9, 2021**

**10:30am**

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin  
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker  
I. Rector

# Welcome to our Church

## WELCOME

to

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

**Services are available:** Recent services are available on our website:

<https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

**Newsletters:** Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter. Email the church office at [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org) to have your name added.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

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336-667-4231

[www.stpaulwilkesboro.org](http://www.stpaulwilkesboro.org)

E-mail: [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org)

**Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800**

# The Gathering

**Prelude**

All Things Bright and Beautiful—Mansfield

**Welcome and Announcements**

*All stand, as able.*

**Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant Let us pray,  
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 S-280** (*spoken*)

**Glory to God in the Highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.*

*All are seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### The First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reader The word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

### Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
**for he has done marvelous things.**

With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
**has he won for himself the victory.**

The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
**his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.**

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
**lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
**with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
**shout with joy before the King, the LORD.**

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
**the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
**and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.**

In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
**and the peoples with equity.**

## The Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reader The word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand or sit as you are most comfortable for the Gospel.*

## The Gospel

John 15:9-17

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

Mother Stephanie E. Parker

*A period of silence follows the sermon.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**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 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.**

## Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

Celebrant     Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:  
                  Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do  
                  your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
                  **Amen.**

## The Peace

✧ *“The Peace” is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. **Maintaining social distancing, offer a verbal greeting with love and share the peace that Christ brings.** These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.*

*Peace be with you.*

Celebrant     The peace of Christ be always with you.  
People        **And also with you.**

## The Holy Communion

### Offertory

God is Love—St. Paul’s Choir

### Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant     The Lord be with you.  
People        **And also with you.**

Celebrant     Lift up your hearts.  
People        **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People        **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant     It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: 129** (*spoken*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Remain standing or kneel here for prayer of consecration.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent Him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in

subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

**Our father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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 for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

**Celebrant** Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*A period of silence is kept.*

## The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant    The gifts of God for the people of God...

*This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you. It is God's will that those who want him should meet him here.  
Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

### Communion Music

Aria—Bach

*Stand or kneel, as able.*

### Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Presider    Let us pray,

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Stand, as able.*

## **The Blessing**

**Presider**      Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people. Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in Christ's grace. And may the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and remain with you always. Amen.

**All**            **AMEN!**

## **The Dismissal**

**Presider**      Let us go forth rejoicing in the name of the risen Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People**        **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

A Song of Rejoicing—Thygerson

## **Serving Today:**

Reader: Nancy Scroggs

Altar Guild: Mike & Mary Southwell

## Prayer List

*Please remember in your prayers:* All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

### **Short-term Illness**

Hilda Absher, Doug Johnson, Jen & Cliff McElroy, Becky Mullins, Kris Riley, Tara Riley, Jeff Smith, Susan Whittington

### **Long-term Illness**

Jim Andrews, Ken Asel, Pam & Robert Baugh, Thomas Dellinger, Mike & Tina Duncan, Mary Hawkins

### **Armed Forces**

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially Zach Necessary, Walker Pardue, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

*Please send to the church office the addresses of troops with connections to [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org), especially those abroad.*



**May 10—Edward Southwell**

**May 10—Mary Canter**

**May 11—Lynn Durchman**



**May 12—Raymond & Cassandra Stone**



## St. Paul's Vestry

Doug Merritt  
Ramona Curtis

Doug Morris

Mark Williams, *Sr. Warden*

Richard Barber

Beverly Cook

Richard Searcy

Carol Canter

Joe Fesperman, *Jr. Warden*

Gwen Temple

Bill Harris, *Secretary*

John Harwell, *Treasurer*

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, *Bishop of the Diocese of WNC*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *I. Rector*

*rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org*

The Rev. Dn. Susan Whittington, *Deacon*

The Rev. Carl Elledge, *Pastoral Assistant*

Ramona Curtis, *Organist*

Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*