

The Prayers

(Prayer is offered: for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members)

The Peace

We meet in Christ's name.

Let us share his peace.

(We offer one another a word of peace. Please feel free to sit during the song)

Offering Song *(Recorded music)*

I am the Vine and you the branches,
pruned and prepared for all to see;
chosen to bear the fruit of heaven
if you remain and trust in me.
For on our own what can you bear?
Left to yourself no sap you share:
branches that serve their own desire
find themselves broken as fuel for fire.

So let my joy complete and cheer you
in whom my hope and kingdom lies;
loving each other as I loved you,
savour that love which never dies.
Though as a servant to you I came,
you are not summoned to bear that name
I call you friends: you are my choice;
in you I trust and in you rejoice.

Stay close and root my words within
you: what you request you soon shall
have until you carry fruit in plenty,
nourished and fertile through my love.
In this is glory given to God
as you, my chosen ones prove my word:
gladly obedient to my commands,
love shall fulfil what love demands.

I am the Vine and you the branches,
pruned and prepared for all to see;
chosen to bear the fruit of heaven
if you remain and trust in me.
(Bell/Maule, WGRG, Iona Community)

Liturgy of the Sacrament

(Separate sheet)

The Communion

(All are invited to receive, standing at the front of the altar rail)

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Give thanks to our gracious God,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Father, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Welcome to St John's

2nd May 2021 Easter 5



- You are most welcome to this service of Holy Communion.
- The celebrant is **Revd Steve Butler**.
- At present we are only able to receive communion 'in one kind', that is, only the communion wafer (the celebrant will receive the wine on behalf of all). To receive, please come forward, one household at a time, and use the hand sanitiser both before and after you receive.
- The service is live-streamed to YouTube, where a recording will be available for a week or two - please see the church website for the link.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Opening Song *(Recorded music)*

Blest be the lord, the God of Israel,
who brings the dawn and darkest night dispels,
who raises up a mighty saviour from the earth,
of David's line, a son of royal birth.

The prophets tell a story just begun
of vanquished foe and glorious victory won,
of promise made to all who keep the law as guide:
God's faithful love and mercy will abide.

This is the oath once sworn to Abraham:
all shall be free to dwell upon the land,
free now to praise, unharmed by the oppressor's rod,
holy and righteous in the sight of God.

And you, my child, this day you shall be called
the promised one, the prophet of our God,
for you will go before the Lord to clear the way,
and shepherd all into the light of day.

The tender love God promised from our birth

is soon to dawn upon this shadowed earth,
to shine on those whose sorrows seem to never cease,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.
(Bernadette Farrell)

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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.

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength."
The second is this:
"Love your neighbour as yourself."
There is no other commandment greater than these.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Confession

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

(Silence)

God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do.

We are truly sorry.

Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria *(Recorded music)*

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, Gloria, Aleluia, Alleluia *(Taize)*

Collect *(Easter 5)*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31

22:25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

22:26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

22:28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

22:29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

22:30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

22:31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, And shall be forever. Amen

First Reading

1 John 4:7-21

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 4:9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 4:11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in

us. 4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. 4:15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 4:16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 4:19 We love because he first loved us. 4:20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 4:21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel

(The acclamation- recorded music)

Alleluia

(When the reading is announced, we say)

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

John 15:1-8

15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 15:2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 15:3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 15:4 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. 15:5 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. 15:6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

(At the end)

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Steve

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.