



St. Martin's Anglican Church

May 2, 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude *Voluntary in C minor*, Maurice Greene (1696-1755)

Sentence: I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Opening Hymn (organ) Word of God, Come Down on Earth, vs. 1 & 4

Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heaven descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word Almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling.
Word of Truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Collect

Celebrant 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.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Acts 8.26-40

A reading from the Book of Acts:

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, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22.24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Reading 1 John 4.7-21

A Reading from the First Letter of John:

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Reading John 15.1-8

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

Jesus said, "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.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Reflection Rev. Shelly

Moment of Silent Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

***All* I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

Prayers of the People

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,

confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

All **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 neighbours 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn (organ) Who Is There on this Easter Morning, vs. 1 & 3

Who is there on this Easter morning
runs not with John to find the grave?
Nor sees how, death's dominion scorning,
Jesus is risen, strong to save?
Who is there on this Easter morning
runs not with John to find the grave?

Who is there doubts that night is ended?
Hear from on high the trumpets call!
Christ is in triumph now ascended,
risen and reigning, Lord of all!
Who is there doubts that night is ended?
Hear from on high the trumpets call!

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Gracious God,
you show us your way
and give us your divine life.
May everything we do
be directed by the knowledge of your truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.
Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. ***Amen.***

Source: "Prayers for Worship", *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2006), p. 67-68.

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All **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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence

Breaking of Bread 8

Celebrant Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All **Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant We were buried in your tomb.

All **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant Live in us, that we may live in you.

The Communion

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant Those wishing to do so may make their spiritual communion by joining in this prayer with me now:

People **I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Sacrament and in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall come**

on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant God of love,
in this eucharist we have heard your truth
and shared in your life.
May we always walk in your way,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Doxology & Blessing

Celebrant Glory to God,
All **whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
In the Church and in Christ Jesus,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge
and love of God and of his Son,
Jesus Christ the Lord.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
remain with you and the ones you love
now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn (organ) Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now, vs. 1 & 4

Jesus lives! Thy terrors now
can no more, O death, appal us.
Jesus lives! By this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!

Rev. Shelly Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

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

Postlude *Allegro in D*, Henry Smart (1813-1879)

Announcements

Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom – Our Virtual Coffee Hour is back at 12:30 PM on Zoom!
Link to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86160988368>, or you may call **647-374-4685** or **647-558-0588** if you wish to participate by phone.
Meeting ID: 861 6098 8368

Wednesday Service on Zoom – Our midweek service will take place on Zoom on Wednesday at 10:15 AM. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82287913027>, or you may call **647-374-4685** or **647-558-0588** if you wish to participate by phone.
Meeting ID: 822 8791 3027

Social Justice Discussion Night on Zoom - St. Martin's Social Justice team has invited Amber Bowen, an educator and community advocate in Durham region, to meet with our St. Martin's community on Thursday, May 13th @ 7 PM on Zoom. Amber is seeking political office in Ajax and she will be available to answer our questions and discuss our concerns in a non-political forum relating to social justice issues, such as housing, poverty, and food insecurity in our region. There will be more details, including the Zoom link, next week.

Book Study - Beginning May 20th at 7 PM, and continuing weekly until June 24th, we will study *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. This best-selling book examines how white people react when their assumptions about race are challenged. We are engaging in this study as part of our Social Justice Vestry Motion to combat anti-Black racism. The book is available at online retailers such as Indigo/Chapters, Amazon, and independent booksellers' sites. Please contact Rev. Shelly at shelly@stmartinsanglican.ca if you wish to participate, or if you have any questions. The office will send the Zoom link closer to the start date.

St. Martin's Anglican Church **The Rev. Shelly Pollard, Incumbent**

Rector's Warden: Michelle Loftus
People's Warden: Brent Levy
Deputy Wardens: Eugene Farrugia
Erna Haller

Mr. Edward Moroney, Music Director
Ms. Gillian Howard, Office Administrator
Ms. Janis Lynch, Sunday School Leader
Ms. Moyah Morgan, Youth Leader

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