



## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

A Service of Racial Reconciliation and Healing Honoring  
the Ministry of our Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission

May 18th, 2025

10:45 am

Welcome

First Opening Song

*Waymaker*

You are here, moving in our midst  
I worship you, I worship you  
You are here, working in this place  
I worship you, I worship you  
You are here, moving in our midst  
I worship you, I worship you  
You are here, working in this place  
I worship you, I worship you

Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who you are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who you are

You are here, touching every heart  
I worship you, I worship you  
You are here, healing every heart  
I worship you, I worship you  
You are here, turning lives around  
I worship you, I worship you  
You are here, mending every heart  
I worship you, I worship you

Second Opening Song

*Even so come*

All of creation all of the earth  
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord  
Jesus is coming soon  
Call back the sinner wake up the saint  
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame  
Jesus is coming soon  
  
Like the stars waiting for the moon  
We'll be a Church ready for You

Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who you are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who you are

That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are

Even when I don't see it You're working  
Even when I don't feel it You're working  
You never stop You never stop working  
You never stop You never stop working

Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who you are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who you are

Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come

There will be justice all will be new  
Your name forever faithful and true  
Jesus is coming soon  
Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a Church ready for You

Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come

So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon  
So we wait we wait for You  
God we wait You're coming soon

Like the stars waiting for the moon  
We'll be a Church ready for You  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come  
Even so come Lord Jesus come!

### Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
*People* The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

### Invitation to a Liturgy of Healing

If you come  
In certainty or in confusion,  
In anger or in anguish,  
**This time is for us.**

If you come  
In silent suffering or hidden sorrow,  
In pain or promise,  
**This time is for us.**

If you come  
And do not know why,  
To be here is enough.  
**This time is for us.**

Come now, Christ of the forgiving warmth,  
Come now, Christ of the yearning tears,  
Come now, Christ of the transforming touch,  
**This time is for us.**

### First Reading

*Acts 11:1-18*

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit

fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 148**

### **1 Hallelujah!**

**Praise the Lord from the heavens; \*  
praise him in the heights.**

**2 Praise him, all you angels of his; \*  
praise him, all his host.**

**3 Praise him, sun and moon; \*  
praise him, all you shining stars.**

**4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, \*  
and you waters above the heavens.**

**5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord; \*  
for he commanded, and they were created.**

**6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \*  
he gave them a law which shall not pass  
away.**

**7 Praise the Lord from the earth, \*  
you sea-monsters and all deeps;**

**8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, \***

**tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

**9 Mountains and all hills, \*  
fruit trees and all cedars;**

**10 Wild beasts and all cattle, \*  
creeping things and winged birds;**

**11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, \*  
princes and all rulers of the world;**

**12 Young men and maidens, \*  
old and young together.**

**13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, \*  
for his Name only is exalted,  
his splendor is over earth and heaven.**

**14 He has raised up strength for his people  
and praise for all his loyal servants, \*  
the children of Israel, a people who are near  
him.**

**Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading**

*Revelation 21:1-6*

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Song**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path  
When I feel afraid  
And I think I've lost my way**

*Thy Word*

**Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear  
As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end**

## The Gospel

*John 21:1-19*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

The Rev. Pilar F. Padrón Parnell

## A Creed of Affirmation

Leader: We believe in God, Creator of the World and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

People: **We believe; God, help our unbelief.**

Leader: We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:  
In the upholding of human dignity and community  
In every expression of love, justice and reconciliation  
In each act of self-giving on behalf of others  
In the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough  
In all responsible use of the earth's resources

People: **Glory to God on high; and on earth, peace**

Leader: We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action;  
Through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith  
Through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life  
Through the search for security through military and economic forces  
that threaten human existence  
Through the abuse of technology, which endangers the earth and all Life upon it

People: **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; lord, have mercy.**

Leader: We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ  
To take up the cross  
To seek abundant life for all humanity  
To struggle for peace with justice and freedom  
To risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come

All: **Thy kingdom come, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*All are invited to stand, kneel, or sit for our prayers courage, healing, and reconciliation.*

*Lector* Precious God, every day you set us in reality. We see so many things, yet pretend we do not see.

*People* **Guide us to see all people, even when they are different from us.**

*Lector* We live our lives of survival, self-preservation, and hard work. We grow tired.

*People* **Direct our living so that we might live for you first, and for your will and purpose.**

*Lector* In our churches we seek refuge from our toils. We seek comfort, reassurance, and affirmation. We want to be at peace.

*People* **Stretch us when we feel uncomfortable or challenged when people come to worship with us who are not like us. Guide us in our journey to grow each day in our understanding of ourselves, of others, and the messages that shape us.**

*Lector* If we have failed in the past to see all people as your children and our equal sisters and brothers in you, help us to see that this can be a new beginning.

*People* **Grant us the gift of your courage that we might confront and overcome our fears and our prejudices. As Jesus died for us, let us die a little each day, to ourselves, that we may know new life in you and with one another.**

*Lector* Without pain there is no reconciliation, for we live in a world of sin.

*People* **May we live in your grace, knowing that it may take discomfort, pain, sacrifice, repentance, forgiveness, and healing. Guide us to acknowledge ugliness within us and strengthen us to trust your grace to live as your redeemed children in one church, by one faith and in one Baptism.**

*Lector* The evils of racism are still woven into the fabric of our lives.

*People* **Through your grace, empower us to overcome the forces that break community.**

*Lector* You have created us as your own family. You have called us together. The time is now for new beginnings.

*People* **May we do the work we must do in your church and world, while it is still day, before it is too late. May we never tire, nor turn our back, nor believe our work is ever done. For each day we must begin anew.**

*The Celebrant adds the concluding collect*

We have tried, O God, to make an offering to you. Walk beside us in our journeying and leave us not alone even to the devices of our minds and spirits, but be in us and about us forever and ever. Brood over us, cleansing and renewing and restoring, to the end that we may face the responsibilities that await us beyond this moment, with strength, with confidence, and with courage. **Amen**

## The Peace

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

## Announcements

### Anniversary & Birthday Blessings

*All*

**May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year.**

*Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46*

*An offering is collected to help support St. James' mission of sharing Christ's love in with the world. You can donate by scanning or tapping the QR code or visiting [www.stjamesskan.org/support-stjames](http://www.stjamesskan.org/support-stjames).*



## Offertory

*Reckless Love*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*EW Prayer II*

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*All*

*S-125*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with

outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with St. James' and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

A period of silence is kept.

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

*The sacrament is given to the people.*

## **Music at Communion**

*I Am the Bread of Life*

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

*All*

### **God of all humanity**

**You call us to bring about healing and wholeness for the whole world – for women and men of all races and cultures and creeds. Help us to respond to a world that is groaning under the weight of injustice and broken relationships. Remind us that differences are a gift, and interdependence a strength from the same creative God. Strengthen us to resist the forces that encourage polarization**

and competition rather than understanding and cooperation. We know that your reign is not built on injustice and oppression, but on the transformation of hearts – new life, not just reordered life. Teach us forgiveness, O God. Bring us reconciliation. Give us hope for the future. We pray in Jesus' love. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

Gracious God send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world, committing ourselves to racial healing, justice, and reconciliation. May our hearts be filled with empathy and grace to proclaim your redeeming love to all the world. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

### **Closing Song**

*Better Is One Day*

How lovely is Your dwelling place  
O Lord almighty  
For my soul longs and even faints for You  
For here my heart is satisfied  
Within Your presence  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere

One thing I ask and I would seek  
To see Your beauty  
To find You in the place  
Your glory dwells  
One thing I ask and I would seek  
To see Your beauty  
To find You in the place  
Your glory dwells

**Better is one day in Your courts**

Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere

My heart and flesh cry out  
For You the living God  
Your Spirit's water to my soul  
I've tasted and I've seen  
Come once again to me  
I will draw near to You  
I will draw near to You to You

Better is one day better is one day  
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere  
Better is one day better is one day  
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere

The Dismissal is given by the Deacon, and the People respond, "Thanks be to God! Alleluia!"

### *Participants in the Liturgy*

Celebrant  
Deacon  
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology  
Asst. Director of Contemporary Music & Technology  
Lector  
Intercessor  
Eucharistic Minister  
Ushers

The Rev. Pilar F. Padrón Parnell  
The Rev. Dr. Chuck Stewart  
Michael Larkin  
Dr. Nicholas Kilkenny  
Beckie Hidy  
Michael Larkin  
Diane Steckel  
Barb Carmody  
Laura Posecznick

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