



Faith Episcopal Church at Wheeler Memorial Chapel

The Fourth Sunday of Easter ☼ May 8, 2022 ☼ Mother's Day

The Rev. Patricia E. Henking, Vicar ☪ The Rev. Michael B. Reinke, Curate

Nancy Jamrog-Couret, Music Director; Jane Howard & Dawn MacKechnie, Wardens

At 8:30, The Holy Eucharist: Rite One is on page 323 in *The Book of Common Prayer*. The Collect, Scripture Readings and Psalm are printed below. Following the Offertory, the Celebrant says, "All things come of thee, O Lord," and the People respond, "And of thine own have we given thee." Continue on page 333.

At 10:00, The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two ☼ Welcome and Announcements

Entrance Hymn #645 c, 1-3 – *The King of love my shepherd is*

The Easter Acclamation – Alleluia! Christ is risen! ***The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

Unison: 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.***

Celebrant: O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bring together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen. (Please be seated.)***

The First Lesson - Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Reading – Revelation 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ☪ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him,

"Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Gradual Hymn – Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth – In Loving Memory of Beatrice Wright

Unison

WORDS and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

PROMISE

✚ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**
 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

✚ *Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon – Of mothers and shepherds

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven & earth, of all that is, seen & 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 he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic & 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.**

The Eucharistic Minister leads the Prayers of the People – A Litany from the Diocese of Gloucester (UK)

Today we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering across the world. Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms. As one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you. (Isaiah 66:13) ***Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.***

Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us and that he knows each one of us just as a mother knows her own children. Can a woman forget her baby at her breast, feel no pity for the child she has borne? Even if these were to forget, I shall not forget you. (Isaiah 49:15) ***Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.***

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his God like a child safe in its mother's arms. No I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a child in its mothers' arms. (Psalm 131:2)

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us like a mother-hen gathering her chicks under her wings. How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings... (Matthew 23:37) ***Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.***

Let us take time aloud or in the silence of our hearts to pray for our world, our leaders, for those in need or infirmity, and for the joyous Together – ***Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.***

Let us take time aloud or in the silence of our hearts to off God in Christ all who have died

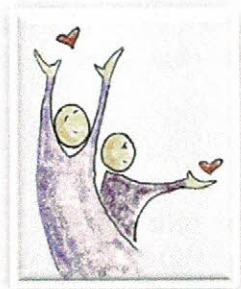
Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care. Amen.

The Celebrant or Assistant invites Offerings of Thanksgiving – A donation is not required.

✠ **Celebrant:** Walk in love as Christ loved us & gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

✠ **As the altar is set with the gifts of bread & wine – *One lost sheep (NEJ-c)***

Eucharistic Prayer C – *In this prayer, the lines in italics are spoken by the People.*



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

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

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.


At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn: *(The first verse of Hymn # 362 is sung)*

 **Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord, God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, ✠ broke the bread, gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, ✠ and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, & worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, *(Unison)* 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, & the glory, for ever & ever. **Amen.**
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



All who sincerely wish to receive Holy Communion are welcome. For safety, we use individual bread you choose as well as individual cups – the bread is gluten free; the cups hold port wine. If you wish a blessing instead: please cross your arms over your chest.

During Communion, Hymn # 397 – Now thank we all our God

After Communion, the Celebrant says, "Let us pray."

Unison: 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.**

The Celebrant blesses the people. Recessional Hymn #494 v. 1-3 – Crown him with many crowns

Dismissal: God in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia! Ukuthula!

Response: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia! Ukuthula!**

Announcements

Good morning! Happy Eastertide! If you are visiting or a newcomer, please introduce yourself to our clergy and members – and let us know if you would like to join our email list.

In the know? You may follow Faith Episcopal Church on Facebook, ask to be added to our email and/or USPS list, and visit our diocesan website at nhepiscopal.org. Contact Vicar Pat+ at awesme@aol.com or phone (603)424-6806. **New! Here's a secure link to donate to Faith Episcopal Church by credit card: <https://app.autobooks.co/pay/faith-episcopal-church>. We also have a new Venmo account! Look for us to post our QR code soon!**

Our concert for Ukraine was filled with prayer and love *and* we have: Funds Raised for Ukraine amounting to about \$4500! Details – We are awaiting the \$500 matching gift toward the funds from the concert; one further \$55 donation would complete the separate match of the \$1000 gift from Nancy and Mitch Courret.

About half of this money is going to the World Central Kitchen further action of the Bishop's Committee requested a conversation last week with anyone who was interested and the group unanimously asked that we work with Marta Jamrog in Jaslo, Poland to decide how to disburse the rest: Vicar Pat is working with Marta (now that she is home from her trip to Romania) and we will be finalizing the directions for the money today or tomorrow – A portion will go to Soup for Ukraine in Krakow, Poland that is an effort to feed refugees throughout the city. Some will go to a close friend of Mara's who is from Kyiv and is working to meet the personal needs of many Ukrainians. **Please mark any further donations "Ukraine" – we will let you know the final totals and disbursement next Sunday.**

Note: Some are concerned that we are so focused as a church on Ukraine that we are not helping the needs of diverse peoples including those nearby. We have learned that Ukraine itself is racially diverse: its Afro-Ukrainian population was largely centered in Odessa, Kharkiv and Kyiv before the war; there was a diverse group of international students attending university in the country as well. These groups have been severely impacted by the situation. We also remind ourselves that our Thank Offering is split between Episcopal Relief and Development, Four Directions Outreach (serving Native Americans) and the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelters (serving diverse people here in So. NH). If there is interest in reaching out to other refugee groups, particularly here in NH, we will connect with an organization that is based at SNHU.

We will return to our discussion of **Bishop Charleston's *Ladder to the Light*** after services today! We are considering continuing with Joseph Campbell's ***The Power of Myth***, possibly using his interviews with Bill Moyers, or similar work – Your thoughts are welcome!

Up-coming! The Bishop's Committee has advised that it is still not wise to serve refreshments after services, nor to hold a yard sale that would be largely indoors. BUT we do feel it would be good to plan some outdoor, midweek evening services starting after Memorial Day – Watch this space!



In loving Memory: Chris Wright's mother, Beatrice, passed away last Sunday and Bob Knoll passed away this past Tuesday. Here is Bob's obituary with service arrangements –

Robert J. Knoll, 76, of Merrimack, passed away peacefully on May 3, 2022 after a courageous battle against cancer. He was born May 25, 1945 in San Rafael, CA a son of the late Ernest and Norma (Williams) Knoll. He is also predeceased by his wife, Louse Knoll who passed in 1997 and his partner of 21 years, Susan Quist.

Bob served his country in United States Navy and was Honorably discharged following his service. He retired from BAE Systems where he was a Financial Manager/Advisor. Since retiring, Bob has enjoyed volunteering at the local Meals on Wheels and adopting his kitty, Austin. He was a loving husband, partner, father, and grandfather. Bob enjoyed attending Faith Episcopal Church in Merrimack. He loved spending time traveling, particularly his yearly trips to Aruba. He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed taking in a game with family and friends whenever possible. He was a collector of many items including his love of trains and lighthouses. He is survived by his 4 children, Jeff Knoll of Milford, NH; Michelle Soucy of Hollis, NH; Sherri Scible and her husband Don of Petersburg, WV; Chris Leonard and his wife Tammy of Merrimack, NH, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 3:00pm on Monday, May 16, 2022, at The New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Faith Episcopal Church, Merrimack or Humane Society of Greater Nashua.