## Holy Comforter Episcopal Church

THE FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER
April 28, 2024
Holy Eucharist Rite II


Our Mission
"Living Our Faith by Serving God and Others"

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector
The Reverend Beth Pessah, Associate Rector



Processional
God is Love: Let Heaven Adore Him
Hymn 379


Continued $\rightarrow$


## Liturgy of the Word

## The Opening Acclamation (standing)

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen. $\dagger$
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

## The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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.



## Collect of The Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.
Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## Children's Blessing

## The First Reading

Acts 8:26-40
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.


## Silence-What indeed is God saying?

## PSALM 22:24-30 (Read Responsively)

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"
26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations.

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

## 29 My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

## The Epistle

1 John 4:7-21
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 Savior 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 judgment, 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.

| Reader | Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. |
| :--- | :--- |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

## Silence-What indeed is God saying?



Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)
Music: The Call, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Music: Copyright © 1911 by Stainer and Bell Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

## The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8
Reader Alleluia, alleluia! I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

## People Alleluia!

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

## People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

## Reader The Gospel of the Lord. <br> People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Silence

## The Nicene Creed (All stand, saying together)

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 he 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 $\dagger$ of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

| Leader | God of love, we rejoice with angels and with all the host of heaven as we celebrate <br> the resurrection of your Son. Bless our joyful celebration and turn our hearts to you <br> with new delight and commitment. |
| :--- | :--- |

## People We praise you, Almighty God. Alleluia! Amen!

Leader God of mercy, bring your church to new life. We pray especially for St. John's, our partner church in Tallahassee. Awaken in us a faithfulness that manifests itself in joy; in dedication to the work of reconciliation in the world; in care for your creation, and in awe of your glory.

## People We praise you, Almighty God. Alleluia! Amen!

Leader God of light, bring those in authority to new life in the ways they lead the nations. Show them the path of integrity and truth, that justice may be upheld and that all people may live in peace.

## People We praise you, Almighty God. Alleluia! Amen!

Leader God of wholeness, bring those who suffer to new life. We pray for all who are in mourning or grief; for those in despair or depression; and for those who struggle with anxiety and fear. Lead us to find ways to be present with them and reflect your love for them.

## People We praise you, Almighty God. Alleluia! Amen!

Leader God of healing, we pray for healing for all who suffer from physical pain or distress, for the aged and infirm, and for all who are sick and suffering, especially Celeste, Elaine, Roger, David, Walter, Mae, Cynthia, Lee \& Bonnie, Herb \& Rhonda, Chris, Russell \& Marcie, Erin, Charles, Russell, Maria, Sterling, Marcie, Chandler, Pat, Anita, Patty \& Bill, Mary Claire, Jan, and Jackie.

## People We praise you, Almighty God. Alleluia! Amen!

Leader God of eternity, we pray that you would hold in your hands all those who have gone before us and have entered into new and everlasting life in your presence, especially those whom we love. Give us, with all the faithful departed, a share in your victory over evil and death.
People We praise you, Almighty God. Alleluia! Amen!

## A brief silence is kept. The Celebrant then says the concluding Collect:

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

## The people kneel (as able)

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor in penitence and faith.
Most merciful God, 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 neighbors 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 on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. $\dagger$ Amen.

## The Peace (Standing)

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

## Offertory

## Celebrant

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.


## Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Eucharistic Prayer A (Standing)

## Doxology



A
men.


Celebrant
People
Celebrant
People
Celebrant
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.

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; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. 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 (All Sing)



Setting: From A Community Mass; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

The people stand or kneel, as able.

## Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

## Celebrant and People <br> Christ has died. <br> Christ is risen. <br> Christ will come again.

## Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honorand glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,



## The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
People Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.
Celebrant 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.
People Thanks be to God.

All baptized Christian believers are invited to receive Holy Communion. All others are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing. To receive this option, please cross your arms over your chest in front of the priest.


Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)
Music: Eventide, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)


## Prayer after Communion (All stand)

## Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Blessing ${ }^{\dagger}$

Celebrant The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.
All Amen.

Recessional Hymn
I Love to Tell the Story
CLH 522



WORDS: Arabella Catherine Hankey, 1886
MUSIC: Hankey, William Gustavus Fischer, 1869

## DISMISSAL

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Celebrant } & \text { Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia. } \\ \text { All } & \text { Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia. }\end{array}$

Postlude

## Notes \& Doodles

WE WELCOME ALL to our services today.
Please contact the church office if we may assist you. We would love to hear from you.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Set Us } \\
& \text { Pray }
\end{aligned}
$$

Pray for our sick, especially Celeste Rosenau, Elaine Yaege, Roger Messimer, David Livingston, Walter, Mae, Cynthia Jester, Lee \& Bonnie McHugh, Herb \& Rhonda Laing, Chris, Russell \& Marcie, Erin, Charles, Russell Sepielli, Maria Morales, Sterling Henderson, Marcie, Chandler Gray, Pat Horn, Anita, Patty \& Bill Ringland, Mary Claire Janiga, Jan Calvin, and Jackie Montgomery.

Pray for all who have died, especially Tom Harrison. Pray for Logan, Alex, Samantha, and for all who love him.

Pray for all who serve in the military, especially Hayden Livingston and Mathew.

Pray for our school; for Peter, Head of School; for Amy, Head of Middle School; for Brenda, Head of Lower School; for Michelle, Director of Preschool; and especially for Jenna Long and MaryBeth Bowen.

Pray for those celebrating birthdays, especially Chris Corum, Kara Cole, Gary Heald, Mary Cordero, Susan Parmalee, Hilda Starbuck, Ruth McHargue, Carol Brady, and Pat Desilet.

Pray for those celebrating anniversaries, especially Nancy \& Robert Fichter.

The policy for Prayers of the People is to list a person for one month. Please call or email the office if extended prayers are needed. Prayers can be requested by contacting the church office with the information.

## Happenings at $\mathcal{H}$ ofy Comforter Episcopal Church

## $\mathcal{T O D A} \mathbf{A}$

## APRIL 28

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
9 a.m. Spiritual Journey
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

## THIS WEEK

Monday, April 29
Tuesday, April 30
Morning Prayer, 8:30 am
Wednesday, May 1 Morning Prayer, 8:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II, 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 pm

Thursday, May 2
Morning Prayer, 8:30 am
Chair Yoga, 3:30 pm
Friday, May 3
Saturday, May 4
Food Pantry, 9 am

The flowers on the altar today are sponsored in Coving memory of the life and love of Edward Thompson Babcock by Barbara Sepielli.

## Camp Weed is coming up fast!

Holy Comforter has been blessed to provide scholarships through the years for many children who would have otherwise not been able to attend Camp Weed.

Registration is open for all sessions, with fees ranging from $\$ 400$ to $\$ 600$. The fees cover lodging, food, and supplies for activities, and much more. More information can be found at http://www.campweed.org/summer-camp/about-summer-camp.aspx.


Text the word
"Give" to (844)
462-8754
Donations to the scholarship fund can be made using the methods to the right or by check (drop off in the office during regular hours or place in offering plate). Please reference "Camp Weed Scholarship Fund" on all payment forms.



Hello there! I'm Arianna Brinson, a proud mom and a psychology graduate from Florida A\&M University.

I'm dedicated to living out my purpose in life, with a strong passion for working with children and giving back to my community. I'm excited about the opportunity to join the Nursery Team at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church.


There will be a benefit concert featuring The New 76ers on the evening of May 17 th at 8 pm . Tickets are $\$ 20$ and will be available soon and can be purchased through the office.

The concert will take place in the nave and there will be a reception in the narthex following the concert.


## Holy Comforter Episcopal Church

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector

The Reverend Beth Pessah, Associate Rector


VESTRY
Rick Wagner, Senior Warden
Robert Efthim, Junior Warden
Sterling Luce Jackie Watts
Susan Robinson
Jenna Brown
Corinne Johnston
Andy Granger, Treasurer Patricia Trom, Clerk

Contact information for Father Allen Hill rev.allenhill@hc-ec.org

Contact information for Mother Beth Pessah MotherBeth@HCES.org,

Office 850-877-2712 * Website: http://www.hc-ec.org Office Hours: Mon.-Thu. 8:00-5:00, Fri. 8:00-Noon 2015 Fleischmann Road, Tallahassee FL 32308

