

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## April 28, 2024



### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### ENTRANCE HYMN *God is Love, let heaven adore him (Abbot's Leigh) (H 379)*

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in  
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -  
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through  
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**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.**

### *S 278 Glory to God (Canticle 20) (Mathias)*

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE 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.*

## FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

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

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## PSALM TONE S 415 Simplified chant setting (S 415)

Jerome Webster Meachen

(b. 1930)



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

### PSALM: Psalm 22:24-30

<sup>24</sup> My praise is of you in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who **worship** you.

<sup>25</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall **praise** you: \*

“May your heart live for ever!”

<sup>26</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and **turn** to you, \*

and all the families of the nations shall bow **before** you.

<sup>27</sup> For yours is the royal power, O **God**; \*

you rule over the **nations**.

<sup>28</sup> To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in **worship**; \*

all who go down to the dust fall **before** you.

<sup>29</sup> My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall **serve** you; \*

they shall be known as yours for **ever**.

<sup>30</sup> They shall come and make known to a people yet **unborn** \*

the saving deeds that you have **done**.

### SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

A Reading from the First letter of John.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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 God’s people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN *EOM2 120 Alleluia Gospel Acclamation (Mxadana)*

*All stand.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

- ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al -

- le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana © Gobingca Mxadana.  
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## GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

*All stand.*

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

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

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

## SERMON

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***(as used by the Washington National Cathedral)*

*Presider:* Let us declare our faith in God.

*Presider and people together:*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*All kneel or remain standing as you are able.*

**THE PEACE**

*All stand.*

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

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERATORY SENTENCE**

Let us with glad hearts offer the fruits of our life and labor to the Lord.

**ANTHEM Jesus Loves Me** *(Phillips)*

Jesus loves me, of this I know,  
Jesus loves me for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak but he is so strong.  
Yes, Jesus love me,  
the Bible tells me so.  
Alleluia!

**OFFERTORY HYMN** *Bread of heaven, on thee we feed (Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirt) (H 323)*

1 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed, for thy Flesh is  
2 Vine of heaven, thy Blood sup-plies this blest cup of

meat in-deed; ev - er may our souls be fed  
sac - ri - fice; Lord, thy wounds our heal - ing give,

with this true and liv - ing Bread; day by day with  
to thy cross we look and live: Je - sus, may we

strength sup-plied, through the life of him who died.  
ev - er be graft - ed, root - ed, built in thee.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Celebrant* *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*

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

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Celebrant* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**SANCTUS S 128 Holy, holy, holy (Mathias) (S 128)**

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and 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."



As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection,  
we now present to you from your creation  
this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us  
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Grant that we who share these gifts  
may be filled with the Holy Spirit  
and live as Christ's Body in the world.**

**Bring us into the everlasting heritage  
of your daughters and sons,  
that with all your saints,  
past, present, and yet to come,  
we may praise your Name for ever.**

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*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER S 150 *The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary) (Hurd)*

*People and Celebrant*

*Unison or harmony*

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

*Slightly faster*

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us

from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom,

the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### FRACTION ANTHEM *EOMI 26 Christ our Passover (Crisafulli) Music for the Holy Eucharist Rite II*

*Cantor*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sac - ri - ficed for us.

*All*

There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Peter Crisafulli, based on *Christ ist erstanden* from **Music for the Holy Eucharist Rite II**, © 2002 Peter Crisafulli.  
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The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep us in everlasting life. **Amen.**

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*For those remaining at home, a Spiritual Communion is offered. This is a personal devotion that anyone can pray (at any time) to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances prevent them from receiving the elements.*

For those worshipping with us from home, we pray together with you:

**Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your grace and be renewed for your service. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

*(Holy Communion may be sent out to those who are sick.)*

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Body and Blood of Christ. **We who are many are one body for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Wisdom of God  
the Love of God  
and the Grace of God  
strengthen you  
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,  
in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

*(source: Celtic)*



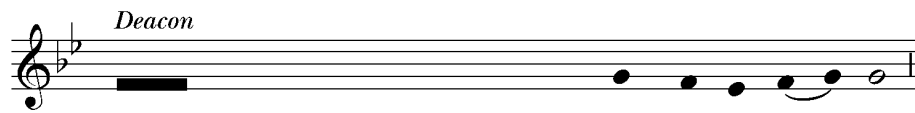
POST-COMMUNION HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West* (LEVAS 62)

1. In — Christ there is no — East or West, In  
 2. In — Him shall true hearts ev - ery - where Their  
 3. Join — hands, di - ci - ples of the faith, What  
 4. In — Christ now meet both East and West, In

1. Him no South or — North; — But — one great fel - low -  
 2. high com - mu - nion — find; — His — ser - vice is the  
 3. e'er your race may — be! — Who — serves my Fa - ther  
 4. Him meet South and — North; — All — Christ - ly souls are

1. ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.  
 2. gold - en cord Close - bind - ing hu - man kind.  
 3. as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.  
 4. one in him Through out the whole wide earth.

**DISMISSAL S 175A *Dismissal Easter***



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Serving today:**

**Ministers of Music:** Eric Vinciguerra, Choir & Ethan Kindle

**Lector:** Jeanne Maxon **Prayers:** Mary Stewart Kiesgen

**Presider:** Rev. Diane Stier **Director:** Alice Ciccu

**Greeters:** The Eichinger Family **Acolyte:** Adam Baker

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** DJ Proctor & Christi Brookes

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

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The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec, Rector

Dan Eichinger, Senior Warden

Clancy DeLong, Treasurer

St. John's Episcopal Church is a parish of the

Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

The Episcopal Church

*The Most Rev. Dr. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop*

The Worldwide Anglican Communion

*The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury*

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*Prayers are taken or adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, the Book of Occasional Services 2018, and the New Zealand Prayer Book*

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## TEAM UP WITH TIM!

*People Helping People*

Over 40,500 Sunday meals served since 2016

In April/May 2024, Tim Brockman's family pledges to match PHP donations up to \$10,000!

Scan the QR Cod to make a donation, or make checks payable to People Helping People



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The Second Service for April will be held on **April 28<sup>th</sup> at 4PM** in the Parish Hall.



**No More Stolen Sisters**  
*A Missing and Murdered  
 Indigenous People Event*

Red Dress exhibits will be featured all throughout the community starting the end of April, until the middle of May to bring recognition to this powerful movement.

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

- ▶ Time: 4:30-6 p.m.
- ▶ Location: Broadway Park  
 2451 Nish Na Be Among Dr.
- Spread awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Movement
- Guest speakers
- Light refreshments



**Locations will include:**

- Ziibiwing Center: 6650 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- Clarke Historical Library: 250 E. Preston, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
- Veterans Memorial Library: 301 S. University Ave., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- McLaren Central Michigan Hospital: 1221 South Dr., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- Central Michigan University Libraries: 250 E. Preston, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
- Mid Michigan College: 2600 S. Summerton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- Art Reach Mid Michigan: 111 E. Broadway St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 *The Red Dress exhibit will run from April 29 until May 7, with a gallery reception and speaker on May 2 from 5-6:30 p.m.*

**For more information, contact:** Behavioral Health Victim Services at 989.775.4400 or [BHvictimservices@sagchip.org](mailto:BHvictimservices@sagchip.org)



**Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan**  
*"Working Together for Our Future"*

7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
 Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
 989-775-4000  
[www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)



# ALS Benefit

Please help us support



## **Dominic Thrasher** also known as **Mikey Sheahan-Stahl**

Reserved tables for the event are available!  
6-person table \$90  
8-person table \$120  
Includes tickets to the event.  
  
Reserved tables will be entered into a special drawing.  
  
Call a committee member\* to reserve your table today!

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Morey Courts, 5175 E. Remus Road, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Silent Auction Begins at 4 pm

Live Auction Begins at approximately 6 pm

In January 2023 Dominic (Mikey) was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – Lou Gehrig's Disease)  
All funds will help with growing expenses in Dominic's fight



@Linda-Fabian-3

Pulled Pork Dinner and Refreshments will be available

Suggested donation, \$10 for adults/person, \$5 for children ages 6-18, \$30 per family max.

Cash donations can be made at ANY Isabella Bank location please reference Dominic Thrasher's ALS Benefit or by using Venmo (scan the code above)

\*Nathalie Dube 734-276-7496, Claire Bunker 989-621-2733, Linda Fabian 989-289-6490, Monica Horan 989-506-5122, Deb Campbell 989-560-3649, Kathleen Bunker 646-259-1176, Kelli McDonald 218-370-0515

Donations may also be dropped off at Brickner & Bunker Ins Group, 2163 E. Pickard Road, Mt. Pleasant, MI between 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (Monday – Friday)

*I've chosen a new mantra to live by. "I'm going to win at life for as long as I can!" If I can leave you all with this. Life truly is short. We all die. It's just some earlier than others. Stop worrying so much. Make a list of things you want to do or achieve. Start NOW by checking them off and achieving them.  
NO REGRETS! – Dominic*



## **We pray this week...**

For Michael, Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop, and for our diocese; and Bonnie, Bishop of Michigan, Rayford, Bishop of Northern Michigan.

For Moisés, Bishop of the Dominican Republic

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury

For Craig, Bishop of ELCA.

For The Anglican Church of Melanesia

For Joe, our President; Gretchen, our Governor; and all who make decisions for this nation.

For Diane, our Rector; Eric, our Choirmaster; Mekeila, our Admin. Asst.

For all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, especially Christi and Jess

For our lay ministers, lectors, choir, acolytes, greeters, and hospitality hosts

For all non-parochial clergy and Lutheran pastors serving in our congregations

For the staff of our parishes

For Church of the Mediator, Harbert – Darlene Kuhn, Rector

For St. John's, Charlotte – Wendy Brown, Priest-in-Charge

For Worship Leaders in the Dioceses

For the members of St. John's, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Pamela

For the members of St. John's especially: Adam, Alice, Ann, Colin, Matthew, Barbara, Bernice, Caleb, Carol, Charley, Marsha, Christi, DJ & Misha

For those on the Prayer Group's list, especially Brent, Cindy, Diana, Gabriel, Mary Lou, Nancy, and Harry

For all who have died.

***Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, where faithful people and seekers have gathered for worship since 1884.***

Using this bulletin you will be able to participate as fully as you feel comfortable. In the Episcopal tradition, we do a lot of moving – standing, bowing, kneeling, sitting. Generally, we stand to *praise*, kneel to *pray*, and sit to *listen*. If you are unsure of what to do, just follow the moves of others around you. There's no one way of getting it "right"!

*Newcomers and visitors:* An accessible bathroom is located in the hallway outside the side door near the front of the church, and there is also one downstairs, which can be reached by the elevator in the same hallway.

*Please know that all are invited to Christ's table. If you would prefer not to receive, simply cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. Our Eucharistic bread is gluten free.*

*We believe what is written on the wall of the church on the Isle of Iona:*

*This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.*

*It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more.*

*So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;*

*you who have been here often*

*and you who have not been here for a long time or ever before;*

*you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.*

*Come, not because the Church invites you;*

*it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.*

Again, welcome. We are glad you are here. Join us for *Coffee Hour* in the parish hall immediately after the service.

- *Rev. Sr. Diane Stier and the People of St. John's*