

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 28, 2024 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Welcome!

The people of Holy Comforter joyfully welcome you to this historic church. We are happy that you are here, and we hope you will find your worship today meaningful and inspiring. If you are looking for a church to call your own, we hope you will consider our parish. At the root of all we do is our desire to live out the Great Commandment of Jesus Christ: to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Holy Comforter has made a difference in our lives, and we believe it can do the same for you.

In peace, The Rev. Greg Brown Rector

"BCP" refers to the Book of Common Prayer, found in the pew rack in front of you.

During the Easter Season (the "great fifty days of Easter"), it is customary to omit the Confession of Sin and to remain standing for all prayers.

VOLUNTARY Prelude and Four Variations on "Adoro te, devote" (Gerald Near, b. 1942)

WELCOME

THE WORD OF GOD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION #47 On this day, the first of days

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant 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.**



THE COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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**.

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

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.

Lector The word of the Lord. People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:24-30 (read responsively at 8:00)

Lector My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who

worship him.

People 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.

ANTHEM (sung at 10:00)

Risen Lord (Barry Rose, b. 1934) Sung by the Children's Choir; Jane Arant, accompanist

Risen Lord, risen Lord,
Give us a heart for simple things:
Love, laughter, bread, wine, and dreams –
Fill us with green, growing hope!
Risen Lord, risen Lord,
Make us a people whose song is "Alleluia!"
Whose sign is peace and whose name is love.
Give us a heart for simple things,
And to sing "Alleluia!"

THE SECOND LESSON 1 John 4:7-21

Lector 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 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.

Lector The word of the Lord. People **Thanks be to God.**

*(at 10:00) At this time, children ages 3 to second grade--and any adults who wish to accompany them--are invited to follow the small wooden cross down the center aisle for children's chapel in our parish hall. Older children are welcome to participate as leaders and helpers. Everyone will return before the Peace.

GOSPEL PROCESSION (sung at 10:00)

#529 In Christ there is no East or West

THE GOSPEL John 15:1-8

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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."

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

THE SERMON The Rev. Cat Connolly

THE NICENE CREED (please stand)

BCP, Page 358

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Let us join through prayer with everything that lives. Let us

acknowledge to God the one life we share, saying: O God, who makes

us one, hear our prayer.

Intercessor O God, your Holy Spirit is alive in all the earth. Your Spirit that moved

and shaped land and sea, trees and beasts still moves and shapes us into creation. Through Christ we know your one Holy Spirit, for you are God of all. That all the world may know your spirit, we pray: O God,

who makes us one:

Hear our prayer.

Open your world before our eyes, so that we see far and near. Show us newly what lives around us, over and behind and within. Give us the

mind of Christ. O God, who makes us one:

Hear our prayer.

For our nation and for the elections to come, we pray: Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of our President, our Governor, and all officials and representatives;

That by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected, and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes.

Deacon

For all who suffer in body, mind, spirit, or soul, for whom Christ is risen with healing in his glorious wings, that they may be comforted. We pray especially for... Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died and for all who grieve, that in Christ who triumphs over death they may find light perpetual and blessed assurance. We pray especially for... Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the joys and gifts of life, large and small, remembered and forgotten, especially... Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those sharing their time and talent for spreading the Gospel at Holy Comforter. Today we remember the Family Ministries Circle Group, including Anne Binns, Caroline Chin, Cat Connolly, Mary Lindsay Evans, Bonnie Green, Beth Hardin, Amy McKee, Samantha Haren, Niki Manke, Kimberly Rockas, Diana Smith, and Liz Weathers.

Celebrant

O God, keep our minds inside your love, for we are many parts and need to be one. We beg for this unity which only your Spirit can give, through Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

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

THANKSGIVINGS (please be seated)

Birthdays for the Week:

4/29 Cassandra Tydings, Carolyn Short; 5/1 Jim Stewart; 5/3 Martha Thomas, Mary Monahan, Lewis Connolly; 5/4 Sarah Gallagher, Brianna Holloway, Elise Garfield

A Collect for Birthdays

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anniversaries for the Week: 4/28 Kim & Michael Weeks; 5/1 Annie & Steve Williams; 5/4 Frank & Mitzi Alexander, Elaine & Jon Wood

A Collect for Anniversaries

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us in your image: Look mercifully upon these couples who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they have made; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

8:00: At the Lamb's high feast we sing (James Woodman, b. 1957)

10:00: If ye love me, keep my commandments (Philip Wilby, b. 1949)

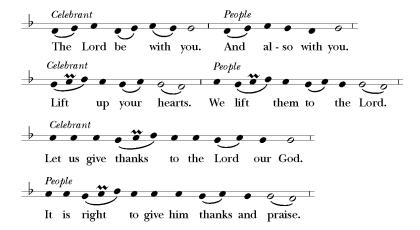
You are invited to contribute financially to Holy Comforter's mission and ministry by placing your gift in the offering plate at the head of the aisle, or by giving electronically via the QR code printed here.



PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Doxology with Alleluias

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



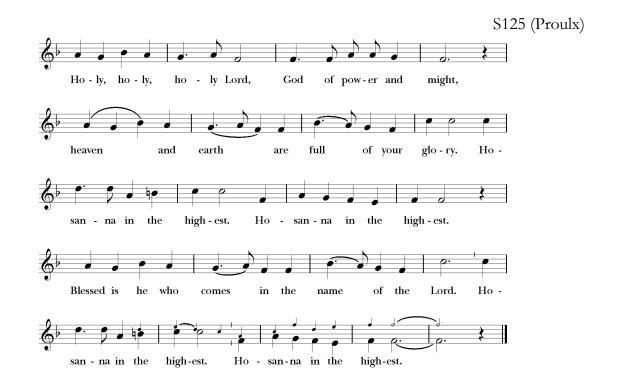
SANCTUS (8:00: spoken, 10:00: sung)

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

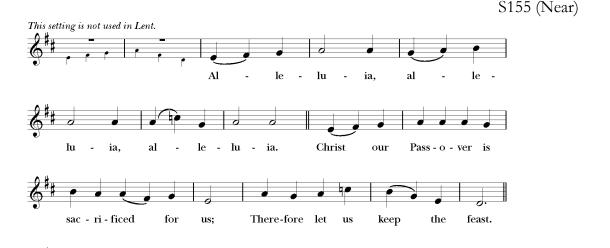
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



FRACTION ANTHEM (8:00: spoken, 10:00: sung)

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



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

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died

COMMUNION HYMNS

All

#704 O thou, who camest from above #513 Like the murmur of the dove's song

PRAYER TO USE WHEN PARTICIPATING IN A "DISTANCED" CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST

for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

In union with the faithful gathered at every altar of your church where the sacrament is celebrated this day, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And, since I cannot at this time receive you in the bread and the wine, I ask you, Lord Jesus, to come into my heart. Dwell in me, gracious Christ, in the fullness of your strength, in the depth of your peace. Renew my hope. Cleanse my body. Restore my patience. Until by your grace I can receive again, in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (when needed)

Celebrant In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist (N) will take communion to (N) today.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen. THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING (please stand)

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#379 God is love, let heaven adore him

DISMISSAL

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

VOLUNTARY Prelude in C Major, BWV 553 (attr. J. S. Bach or J. L. Krebs)

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April 28 The Episcopal Church of the

The Sunday Spirit



This Sunday

Holy Comforter

- 8 am service
- 9 am The Bible as it is, 207 Van Every
- 10 am service, <u>also</u> <u>shown on Facebook live</u>
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour
- 11:30 am HoCo Forum, Henry Hall
- 12:30 pm La Misa in Spanish
- 5 pm Choral Evensong
- 5 pm EYC

Servers this Week

Celebrant: Fr. Greg Preacher: Rev. Cat Verger: Ann Maxwell, Chris

Bates

VPOD: Tim Cavins, Carlyle Knox

KIIOX

Acolytes: Janie Green, Ellie Binns, Neva Rolfes

Eucharistic Ministers: Kevin Tydngs, May Winiarski & Scotland Gallo

Lectors: Tom Cooper, Mary Cox & John Lott, David Yarbrough

Eucharistic Visitors: Karen Crane, Diana Smith, and Brad Follett

Flower Delivery: Jane Knox

Visit our website!



www.holycomforter charlotte.org

Making Space for What Feeds You

Life is sometimes stressful. There is a lot to organize and balance, with various demands on one's time. Perhaps there are things you want to do but somehow never get around to. Maybe your prayer life is one of those things... I will admit that for myself there are times when my spiritual life gets squeezed, and it can seem hard to make space for quiet and reflection. It helps to know what feeds you. For me, singing and walking are important ways in which I can connect to God. So even in the busy weeks, or the days when it feels like too much is piling on, if I can sing or walk, it lets me breathe. Making space for what feeds you is vital. Life can take over so easily and we find ourselves worn down without knowing how to fix it. But the most important things we do as Christians are to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. So whatever it is for you, to love yourself in that

sustaining way that gives life, let that take priority sometimes!

rake priority sometimes

Rev. Cat +

Worship & Education Opportunities

The Bible as it Is

Who Rules the World, Satan or Caesar? Diana Butler Bass raised that question based on John 12:20-33, and you are invited to discuss that question during the next session of The Bible As It Is, in Van Every, Room 207, at 9 am today.

HOCO Update this Sunday

This Sunday is the second quarterly update of 2024! Our leadership will go over first quarter financials and we'll receive updates on various ministries at 11:30 am in Henry Hall.



Pentecost and Summer Schedule

On May 19, we'll celebrate the birthday of our church with an 8 am English service followed by a bilingual 11am service followed by our Pentecost picnic. Wear your red and plan to be there. The following Sunday, May 26, we'll begin our summer schedule. We'll have a single 9:30 am English service and an 11:30 am La Misa service on Sundays through Labor Day, September 1.

May 1 is the Deadline to GIVE UP YOUR SILENCE

Each year our diocese schedules an advocacy day with our state legislature. This year they are offering an opportunity for parishes to participate with a postcard campaign. Postcards are available for you to write to our legislators with your support, concerns or ideas regarding policy that has special significance for you. Place your postcards in the offering plate or the box in the foyer to Henry Hall by May 1. We will send them to the diocese so they may deliver them in mass to the legislature.

More Worship Opportunities

Galilee Sunday at Holy Comforter | Sunday, May 5

Galilee Sunday is an opportunity for churches across the Charlotte convocation to learn about Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte – a mission of our Diocese – during their Sunday worship and education programs. The Reverend Deacon Emily Parker, Director of Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, will preach on May 5 and host a discussion about Galilee during adult formation. We ask that you bring a donation for Lydia's Pantry, Galilee's emergency food pantry. We are in need of: canned fruits and vegetables, canned chicken and tuna, black beans, pinto beans, and rice. Pop tops are great and no glass, if possible. We also need ready-to-eat items such as prepackaged crackers, and protein or granola bars.

Altar Flower Dates for 2024

Available 2024 dates for flowers are: July 14 & 21; September 1; October 27; November 24; December 24/25. To reserve your date, contact Elaine Wood at 704-517-0161 or ebwood5409@gmail.com.

This week we are praying for: Family Ministries Circle Group. They provide feedback, input and ideas to the Director of Children's Ministries and Youth Administrator about Holy Comforter's programs for children, youth, and families. They also support these ministries through advocacy and volunteer recruitment.

Parish Survey 2024 Update: Coming in mid-May!

To accommodate the wide range of topics on which your input is needed to help Holy Comforter's clergy and church leaders plan for the coming year, we are taking some extra time to get the survey ready. Parishioners will be able to take the survey beginning in mid-May. Watch for more information and then let your voice be heard!

Education

Adult Forum at The Hour

On Sundays at 11:30am, in Henry Hall, unless noted: May 5 Galilee Ministries, Emily Livingstone Parker May 12 Blessing of the Gardens, in the Memorial Garden May 19 Pentecost, no education, join us for the picnic!

It's Time to think VBS!

Date: June 10-14, 2024
Time: 9-12 p.m.
Cost: \$45/child
(Financial Assistance Available)
There is no cost for volunteers.

Register at this link: https://tinyurl.com/2cmz3p8r

Sacred Ground Diocesan Online Group

Two Thursdays a month, 11:00 - 12:30 PM, Beginning May 23 and co-facilitated by our own Ed Gash. Register:

https://tinyurl.com/4999dzvy The Diocese offers Sacred Ground as part of its commitment to Racial Justice.

Questions? Ask Ed Gash, Jessica Dunlap or Fr. Greg.

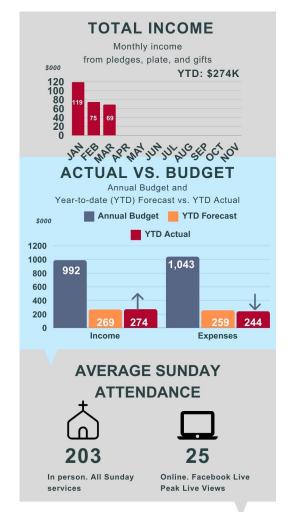
What's New to Read this Summer?

Darrow-Owens invites you to attend our annual Beach Reading Party on Monday, May 6th in Henry Hall, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sally Brewster, proprietor of Park Road Books, will present us with all the new reads for this summer, along with a brief, yet tantalizing description of each.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



March, 2024



Holy Comforter Episcopal Church

Outreach

Nourish Up / Loaves & Fishes is in need of:

- Diapers and baby wipes
- Peanut butter
- Cereal

Items can be left at the Nourish Up door in Van Every or the box in the Atkinson library. Thank you for helping our pantry.

World Labyrinth Day May 4

Ed Gash is inviting folks to come to the Sardis Baptist Church labyrinth at 1:00 pm on May 4 and spend a few moments in a walking meditation for World peace and healing. WLD is an annual event that began in 2009 on the first Saturday in May. People around the globe participate in a moving meditation for world peace. While recognizing that finding peace amid chaos and violence will take more than a peace walk, they believe cultivating peace within ourselves can be a catalyst for us to engage activism for peace. Questions?

HOLY COMFORTER PRAYERS THIS WEEK APRIL 28-MAY 4, 2024

CURRENT PRAYERS **Of support** for parishioners Cesar Ortiz, Mo. Gay Silver, John Sapielak for family and friends Lorena Órdenes Vitali, Melvin Thompson, Silvia White, Deanne Smith, Leslie and Hana Newman, Abby Lynn Robinson, Judy Robinson, Millie, Tonda Bynum for those who have died Caroline Bosbyshell, David Peacock, Dick Snelsire

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Daniel Gardner Hibbitts by Kirt, Kathy, Sarah, and Meg Hibbitts.

ON-GOING PRAYERS

Of support for Vicky Adkins, Grey Brewington, Linda Carr, Rev. Cat Connolly, Ray Diamond, Hope Diaz, Jeffrey Freed, Efraim Nathaniel Gonzalez, Connie Guthery, Hoover Harelson, Bryan D. Jackson, Margaret Kahn, Paul Kochenash, Anne Lisk, Amy Alexander Myers, Vera Payne, Ginger Prisinzano, Pete Riley, Sean Riley, Amy Samonds, Lydia Cristou Samonds, Carolyn Mae Smith, Linda Shuping Smith, Nell Smith, Joey Starnes, Katharine Thomas, Tim Thomas, Betty Webb, Michael Weeks, Michael Wilson, John Womack for military service David Cavins, Stephen DenBoer, Bryan Gamboa-Alfaro, Steven Parmley, Michael Sparta

CLERGY & STAFF

The Reverend Greg Brown, Rector
The Reverend Cat Connolly, Associate Rector
Dr. Patrick Pope, Director of Music
Jessica Dunlap, Director of Parish Life
Kimberly Rockas, Director of Children's Ministries
Samantha Haren, Youth Administrator
Holly Williams, Parish Administrator
Trish Stukbauer, Director of Communications
Maguilida Rowe, ESL Coordinator
Lauren Cavins, Director of La Escuelita Weekday School

Staff email addresses are first name, last initial @,holycomfortercharlotte.org

VESTRY

Terms ending 2024: Joyce Bott (Senior Warden), Natalie Castro, Jason Evans, Carlyle Knox (Junior Warden) Terms ending 2025: Mary Amos, Anne Binns (Clerk), Tom Cooke, Bob Murphy Terms ending 2026: Tim Cavins, Jacqueline Howells, Niki Manke, Diana Smith







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