**ANTE-COMMUNION SERVICE MAY 10, 2020 – EASTER V**

*(Father Roy to start)*

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me. *John 14.6*

**HYMN** CP 210, Yours Be the Glory (see website for lyrics)

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* May his grace and peace be with you.

*People* **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*All* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,**

**and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**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* Glory to God in the highest,

*All* **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**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

Give us grace to love one another

and walk in the way of his commandments,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS** (Beverly Baird)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. ACTS 7:55-60

The Word of the Lord THANKS BE TO GOD

**PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16**  (Philip Isaacson)

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

"My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving kindness save me.".

**HYMN** Because He Lives, LEVAS 43 (see website for lyrics)

*(Deacon Jacquie)*

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

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

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." JOHN 14:1-14

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**SERMON: Deacon Jacquie Bouthéon**

**SOLO** Come My Way, My Truth, My Life (Leonora Benjamin)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life; such a way as gives us breath,

Such a truth as ends all strife, such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength; such a light as shows a feast,

Such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart; such a joy as none can move,

Such a love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.

*(Father Roy)*

**The Apostles’ Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People** (Audrey Shepherd)

We come to you Lord, our Father and our Mother, at a time of stress and sorrow. We do not understand how our own folly has led us to this state, but we are beginning to realize how much we need you and need each other. Be with us now as we lift our voices to you, saying

Lord of justice and compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

**We pray for the church** and for all leaders ordained to your service - Linda, Andrew, Kevin, Pam, Roy, Jacquie. We pray for lay people who minister to others in Jesus’ name - Sunday School teachers, choir members, acolytes, sides-persons, anointers, committee chairs, pastoral visitors, the many who have no title but quietly serve. We lift up especially men and women who bring you to countries where to profess Jesus the Resurrected One is to put their lives in danger.

Lord of justice and compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

**We pray for everyone in the medical field** working to heal the sick and find a cure for COVID-19, often at great cost to themselves, even to the point of death. We pray for all essential workers, who bravely do their jobs daily, knowing that they are at risk, but honouring their commitment to serve the community.

Lord of justice and compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

**We pray for the sick in body, mind, or spirit,** those known to us and strangers we may never meet. We pray for people in long term care homes, frightened and without their families. In a moment of silence, we lift up by name the people who have asked for our prayers……….

Lord of justice and compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

**We pray for those who have died** and for the families and friends who mourn their passing. As Jesus wept at the grave of a friend, so we grieve when someone we love is taken from us. We name them before you…………, in the sure hope that we will be together in the heaven that you have promised.

Lord of justice and compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

**On this Mother’s Day** we honour the women who gave us birth, the women who adopted us when we needed a mother, and our grandmothers, aunts and other relatives who love and cherish us and give us a solid foundation on which to build our lives. As Jesus loved and cared for his Blessed Mother Mary, keep us mindful of our duty to love and care for the women in our own family, and to remember those who are now in your nearer presence.

Lord of justice and compassion

**Hear our prayer.**

Jesus our Saviour, you are the Way; guide us in your way. You are the Truth; teach us your truth. You are the Life; help us to make our lives reflect your glory and be your body in the world. **AMEN**

*(Pastor Pam)*

**Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*All* **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 neighbours 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 upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

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

**The Peace**

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

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

**Closing Prayer** *(Pastor Pam)*

We heard in the reading from the Book of Acts of the death of Stephen, first martyr of the young Church and one of the first deacons. Let us pray the Collect for his feast day.

Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies

and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

**Doxology**

*Celebrant* Glory to God,

*All* **whose power, working in us,**

**can do infinitely more**

**than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,**

**in the Church and in Christ Jesus,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Benediction**

*Celebrant* May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.  
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

*People* **AMEN**

**HYMN** CP 425, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (see website for lyrics)