

Worship from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia  
May 10, 2020  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

OPENING

*Sicut Cervus*

By G.P. Palestrina

*Sung by members of Sanctuary, the Compline Choir*

*Brent te Velde, director*

*Please note: this was videorecorded before stay-at-home orders were in place.*

WELCOME

*The Rev. Will Stanley*

POEM

From "Wild Geese"

By Wendell Berry

*Guy Frank*

Geese appear high over us  
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,  
as in love or sleep, holds  
them to their way, clear  
in the ancient faith: what we need  
is here. And we pray, not  
for new earth or heaven, but to be  
quiet in heart, and in eye,  
clear. What we need is here.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

*Mary Ashburn Pearson*

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Stukie Valentine*

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.**

HYMN 432: O PRAISE YE THE LORD

*Laudate Dominum*

*Sung by St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Brent te Velde, organ*

## THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

*The Rev. Claudia W. Merritt*

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 the 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.”

## THE HOMILY

*The Rev. Gary D. Jones*

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Meditation on *Slane*

*Brent te Velde, organ*

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Honor Reichel*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Phillips Family*

We hold before God:

those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

parents who are struggling to make ends meet, children who miss their friends and teachers at school, and grandparents who wish they could be there to help. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

Those who are homeless or unemployed, those who are sick or dying, as well as family or friends who wish they could be with them.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

those who are disoriented or depressed by the sameness of their days, and all who are lonely, anxious, or afraid.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

those who are grieving the loss of someone they loved, and anyone who is disappointed in something for which they had hoped very much.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We hold before God:

All of us who are waking again to the blessings in our lives, during this time of adversity, that the stirrings to new life that we sense today will take root and blossom when the time of trouble has past.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, among the swift and varied changes of this life, help us to center our lives on you, trusting that you are preparing for us, and all whom we love, more than we could ask or imagine; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

*We remember St. Stephen's parishioners who have died since we last worshiped together in person.*

### **Jean Proffitt**

August 25, 1930-March 16, 2020

### **Maggie Belle Moore**

June 27, 1921-April 16, 2020

### **Polly Christian**

August 19, 1926-April 29, 2020

**George V. Moncure, Jr.**

May 8, 1936-May 5, 2020

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

THE PEACE

*Anne and Mac McElroy*

CLOSING MUSIC

Guide us waking

Music by Ana Hernandez

*Members of the Virginia Girls Choir*

CLOSING

*Read by Allison seay*

And we pray, not  
for new earth or heaven, but to be  
quiet in heart, and in eye,  
clear. What we need is here.

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Prayers of the People adapted from the Northumbria Community

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