

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

PRIDE Celebration | June 6, 2021 at 5pm

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | 60 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851

*Welcome to St. Paul's on the Green; without exception, you belong! On this day, we extend a special welcome to all members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. This parish has a long and historic record of solidarity with and advocacy for LGBTQ+ persons and continues to be an intentionally welcoming place for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.*

## PRELUDE

*Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich* by Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Please stand as the bell sounds. The Celebrant says*

Blessed be God, who loves all creation!

**God is love without limit, Alleluia!**

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

O God of vi - sion far great - er than all hu - man schem - ing, gath - er us  
Pour out your Spi - rit on all now as - sem - bled be - fore you. May our di -

now in your pres ence, re - fresh - ing, re - deem - ing. Show us a - new  
ver - si - ty here be a means to a - dore you. Come ho - ly Dove!

life in your breath - tak - ing view, love - ly be - yond all our dream - ing.  
How - and whom - ev - er we love, Make us as one we im - plore you.

words: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008), alt.

music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

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*The People's responses are in bold.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, who gave one origin to all peoples, and wills to gather us into one family for yourself; and kindle in all people desire for the bounty and blessing of our neighbor; that each one of us may know the fullness of our belonging, every division may be removed, and equity and justice may be established in human society; through Jesus Christ your beloved, who calls us into community, and who unites all in the Spirit of Truth, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSON

*Isaiah 41:8-10, 14*

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, 'You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off'; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. Do not fear, I will help you, says the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL HYMN

God, you call us to this place, where we know your love and grace.

Here your bles-sed Spir - it free makes of us one fam - i - ly,

makes our rich di - ver - si - ty rich - er still in u - ni - ty,

makes our man - y voi - es one joined in praise with Christ your Son.

words: Delores Dufner (b. 1939)

music: *Salzburg*, melody Jacob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

words © 1987, 1993 The Sisters of St. Benedict (admin. OCP)

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## THE GOSPEL

*John 15:18-21, 26*

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

Jesus said: 'If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world — therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, "Servants are not greater than their master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.

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

## THE SERMON

*The Rev. Daniel Simons*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*adapted from Douglas Gay*

**We believe in the God of Life, the world maker, the star lighter, the sun shiner, the beauty maker; provoking the evolving cosmos from nothing but words of love. We believe in life.**

**We believe in the risen Jesus, the cross bearer, the hell-harrower, the death defier; embracing the resurrection of all as the first-born from death. We believe in life.**

**We believe in the life-giving Spirit, the breath bringer, the body lover, the Church birther; enabling communion with Jesus the Living One. We believe in life.**

**We believe in the God of Life: World-maker, cross-bearer, life-giver; Trinity of hope, leading creation to its liberation.**

**We believe in God.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of beauty, you stretched out a rainbow in the heights of heaven. Visit the rainbow of your people gathered here in prayer, and transform us with your glory.

We thank you for the diversity of ways in which we identify, love, and live in the world. Guide us beyond the limits of our understanding, that we may see beauty in those who are different from ourselves.

God of beauty,  
**transform us with your glory.**

We pray for those who suffer discrimination or violence because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Help us work to ensure that everyone's beauty is recognized and honored.

God of beauty,  
**transform us with your glory.**

We remember the leaders and activists who made possible the freedoms we now enjoy. May they rest forever in the beauty of paradise.

God of beauty,  
**transform us with your glory.**

*The Celebrant offers a concluding prayer.*

God of beauty, to you no one is lost, no one is left behind, no one is the price to be paid for the greater good. Give us the same restless desire, the same fierce joy, which finds grace in every child of earth, and makes a community open to all. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who loved the world and did not count the cost. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with a distanced gesture to those nearby.*

## REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Today's collection will be donated to Triangle Community Center in Norwalk, to support their ongoing mission.*

*Triangle Community Center (TCC) is Fairfield County's leading provider of programming and resources to nurture growth and connection within the LGBTQ+ community.*

*TCC is home to more than two dozen free groups that meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly at the center. Groups include peer support, recovery, older adult daytime programming, crafts, sober social events and youth groups. TCC's team of client advocates assist community members with social service navigation, food, drop-in services, document updates, healthcare navigation and housing navigation at its Drop-In Center in Norwalk. TCC works to make local area providers more welcoming and affirming through education with its LGBTQ+ Training Institute. TCC also produces Fairfield County Pride, a month-long series of events to celebrate Fairfield County's LGBTQ+ community.*

*For more information about Triangle Community Center you can visit their website at [www.ctpridecenter.org](http://www.ctpridecenter.org).*

***Donate online** to Triangle Community Center at [https://www.ctpridecenter.org/support\\_tcc](https://www.ctpridecenter.org/support_tcc).*

## THE OFFERTORY

*The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others.*

## ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

*sung by the choir*

Four simple words we sing today.  
With these four words we ought to pray,  
and take to heart this sacred phrase:  
    "More love, less hate."

It seems so easy on its face.  
Four words to heal the human race,  
and yet we struggle to create  
    more love, less hate.

For love we stand!  
More love in this land!  
Will you join? Come, take my hand,  
    more love, less hate.

When fear and violence touch our lives,  
    hate separates, seeks to divide.  
Our faith in love won't be denied.  
    More love, less hate.

Just as the night gives way to dawn,  
justice shines forth before too long.  
Until that day we will sing on,  
    more love, less hate.

words and music: Mark Miller (b. 1967)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Open wide your hearts.  
**We open them to God and one another.**

Let us give thanks to the God of all.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right to give you thanks and praise, O God,  
for your pleasure in creating a world of difference and diversity.

You abandoned control, fashioning a universe, new and marvelous.  
You nurtured life: diverse, evolving, surprising and strange.  
You called a people who did not walk straight or know their limits.

You gave us different bodies and desires,  
different ways of thinking and speaking,  
and different ways of belonging and believing.

And so, in awe of all that you have done  
and with every being in heaven and on earth,  
we lift our voices to proclaim your glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

setting: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)  
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*The Celebrant continues*

One came who upset the rules, who accepted the grace of the outsider, who looked for wisdom in those who did not count, who took his meals in the company of the rejected. The tables of the moneychangers he threw over. The doors of liberation he threw open.

In Jesus, you defied the boundaries between sacred and secular and demonstrated respect and honor for all of creation. You confronted the powers that deny the goodness of others, challenged the status quo that seeks to keep things hidden, and commanded your children to love across all boundaries and to be loved without limit.

On the night before he gave himself up, Jesus ate and drank to the end of all that enslaves. He took the bread and broke it, and said: "This is my Body. Do this to remember me." He took the wine and poured it, and said: "This is my Blood. Do this to remember me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ became one of us;**  
**Christ suffered for us;**  
**Christ gives us the gift of life.**

Into our hands he delivers himself, Jesus, the Victim, the Excluded One, the Sign of Hope for all. We celebrate in this meal his victory of life over death and love over hate.

May your Spirit take these earthly things and reveal in their brokenness the life-giving plenty that is the Body and Blood of Christ.

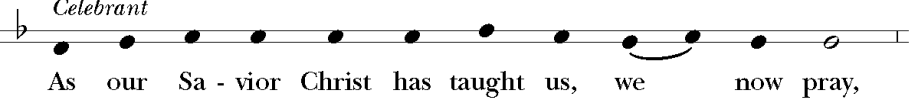
May your Spirit descend upon us also, that we too may become Christ's Body and work for the healing of the world.

Let us, we pray, be defined by what we are open to, not by what we fear; by the excess of our compassion, not by the walls along our borders.

We offer this prayer in the name of the God who includes everyone and excludes no one, the One who is in all and with all and for all. **AMEN.**

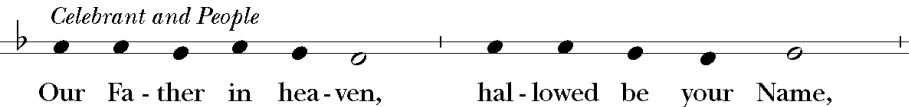
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant*

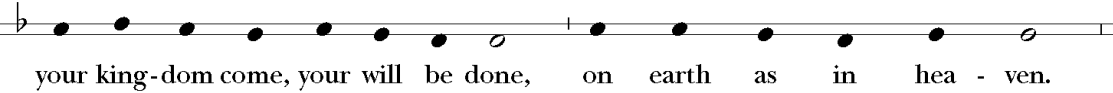


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

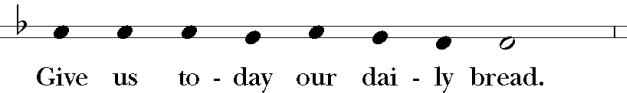
*Celebrant and People*



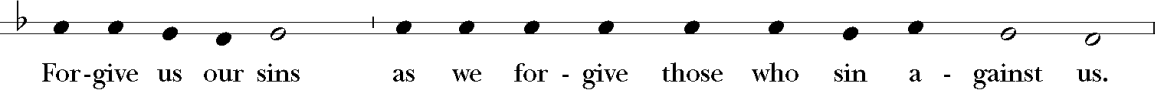
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



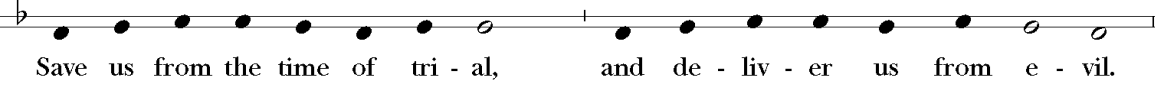
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



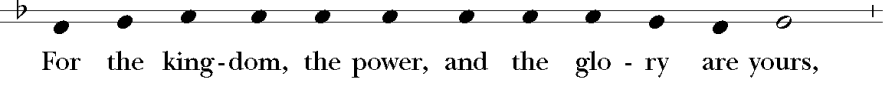
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



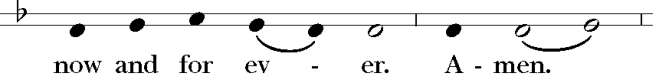
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, 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.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)  
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*The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to communion, saying*

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus  
**in the breaking of the bread.**

You are the body of Christ.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.

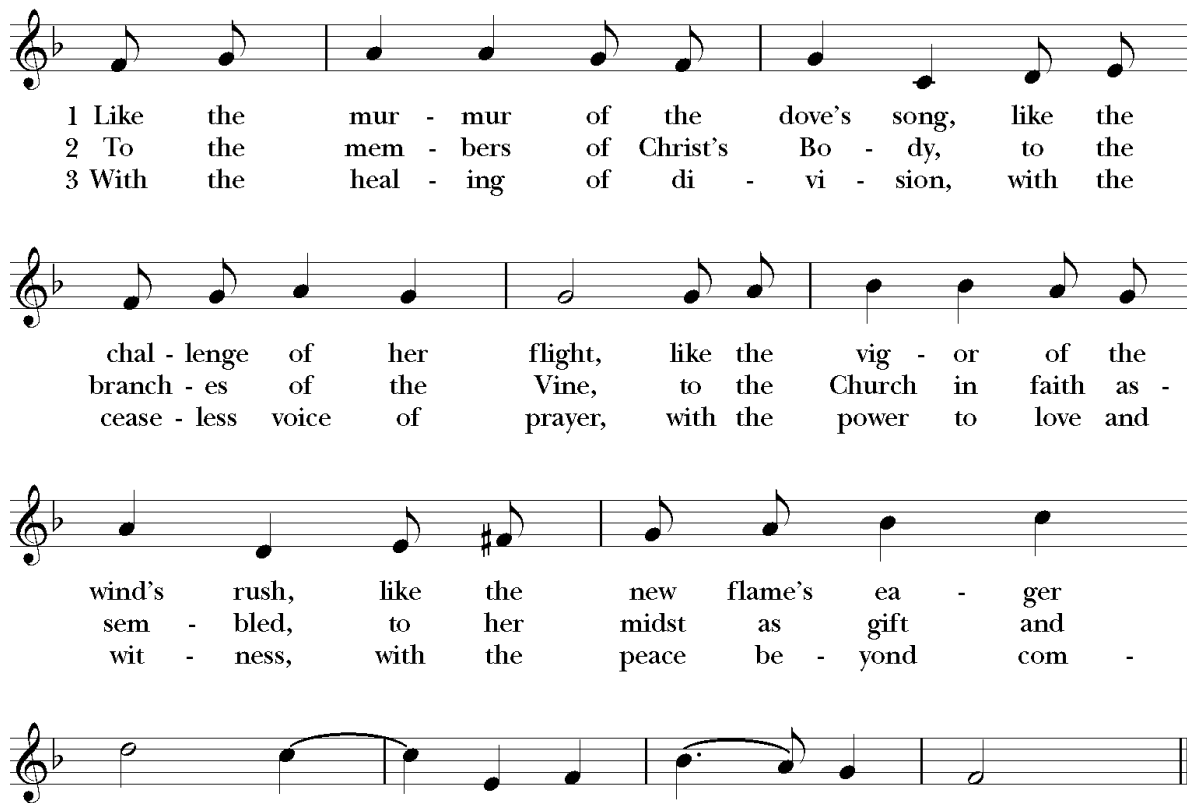
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

words: John 6, adapt. Robert J. Batastini (b. 1942) and the Taizé community  
music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)  
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## THE COMMUNION

*Follow the directions of the ushers to receive Communion. For those who live locally and worship weekly online and wish to receive the consecrated bread and wine, please contact the parish administrator for more information.*

## HYMN AT COMMUNION



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the  
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the  
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the

chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the  
 branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -  
 cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and

wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger  
 sem - bled, to her midst as gift and  
 wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -

might: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
 sign: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
 pare: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

music: *Bridegroom*, Peter Cutts (b. 1937)

words © 1982 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188

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## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, you have welcomed us to this table and nourished us with your love in bread and wine. May this food strengthen us to embrace all people as your children and empower us to bring wholeness and hope to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **AMEN.**

## THE BLESSING

May we who have been welcomed at this table take God's welcome out to where tables are reserved and doors are closed; may we who have broken bread at this altar be led by the Spirit to break bread on the altar of the world; And may the blessing of the God of All: the One who creates, the One who redeems, and the One who sustains, be with us every step of the way. **Amen.**

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, providing a steady harmonic foundation. The lyrics are: 'In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways, We of ev-ery race and gen-der, all per-sua-sions, old and young, who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways? each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung. God of rain-bow, fi-ery pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney, now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er-more.'

In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
We of ev-ery race and gen-der, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?  
each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.  
God of rain-bow, fi-ery pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your peo-ple,  
ours the jour-ney, now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er-more.

words: Julian B. Rush (b. 1936), alt.  
music: *New Dimensions*, Julian B. Rush (b. 1936)  
words and music © 1994 Julian B. Rush  
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## THE DISMISSAL

In the power of the Risen One, let us go forth into the world to be the transforming love of God.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

## POSTLUDE

*Fuga in C Major* by Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

*All are invited to a reception on the labyrinth, weather permitting.*

# THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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