

An Evening Service of Holy Eucharist



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Dear Friends,

Tonight we gather for a contemplative service during which we are invited to enter in the mystery of the Holy, which is embedded in our creation, made new in Jesus' life and death, and born out of God's deep desire to love each one of us and all living beings. We don't need to understand how that happens to experience God's redemptive love. We need only to seek it and to settle into this holy goodness before us, within us, and among us.

Our service includes times of silence, contemplation, and evocative music to lift our souls.

Your participation can be one of heart alone. If you choose, you may close your eyes as you prepare for worship, as our contemplative music begins to pierce your heart and you may open your eyes only as you are aware the service is ending. Or you may follow the Order of the Service and say the parts which are bolded.

Our service includes the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a time when we and Christ are drawn together in an unexplained yet very real way. Yet, during this time of the COVID pandemic, we cannot safely share the consecrated elements within a large gathering. However, we can allow the words of our familiar Eucharistic prayer to touch our soul; we can feel our heart break open to God's redemptive love as the bread is torn apart; and we can, through the prayer of spiritual communion, receive the presence of Christ into our lives in a very real and alive way. This is your invitation this evening.

You may engage in this service whenever your heart deeply yearns for this communion with Christ and/or you can gather in your family setting or within a small group through online presence, and share this with those whom you love. The celebration of Holy Eucharist is intended to be done in community, so I urge us all to join together, in our hearts and souls, as we enter into this holy time and space.

In the truth of all goodness and Light, which casts out all darkness,  
Faithfully, Mother Barbara

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### *Contemplative Musical Offering*

#### Opening Acclamation

*Priest* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* **O come let us worship. Alleluia.**

Let us pray,

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. Amen.

**O Gracious Light,  
pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven.  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
And our eyes behold the evening Light, we sing your praises, O God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

At this evening hour  
may the understanding of all our hearts  
be opened to that Light  
which enlightens everyone  
who comes into the world.  
For this is the Light which gives us  
true knowledge of the Name over all  
by which God is known

#### A Moment of Silence

**Taize Chant: Within our darkest night**  
*(Please join your voice with the recording of the chant.)*

*Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.*  
*Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.*

**Psalm 16**

Remain ever before me,  
O Living Presence,  
for in You am I safe.  
You are my Beloved: in You  
And through You, I can do all things.

I look to those who are at one  
With You and learn  
From them of your ways;  
My delight increases each time  
I sense your Presence within me!  
Songs of praise well up from my heart!

Love is my chosen food, my cup,  
holding me in its power.  
Where I have come from,  
Where'er I shall go,  
Love is my birthright,  
my true estate.

I bless the Counselor who guides my way;  
In the night also does my heart instruct me.  
I walk beside the Spirit of Truth;  
I celebrate the Light.  
I bask in The Oneness of All!  
Thus my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
I shall not be afraid,  
nor fall into the pit of despair;  
For in Love's presence I know fullness of joy.  
You are my Beloved and, in You  
will I live forever!

## **The Gospel** (*John 20:19-31*)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### **Silent Reflection**

#### **Prayers**

At the close of day  
as busyness fades  
as light dims  
and footsteps soften  
we open again the inner door of our being  
to enter stillness  
to feel our way through the dark  
to You  
the Silence from whom we are born  
the Name before names were spoken  
the Love of life's beginnings.  
At the close of the day, we come.

**Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God**

*(Please join your voice with the recording of the chant.)*

*Breathe on me breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will, to do or to endure.*

*Breathe on my breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
Til all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me breath of God; so shall I never die;  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternally.*

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love, you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

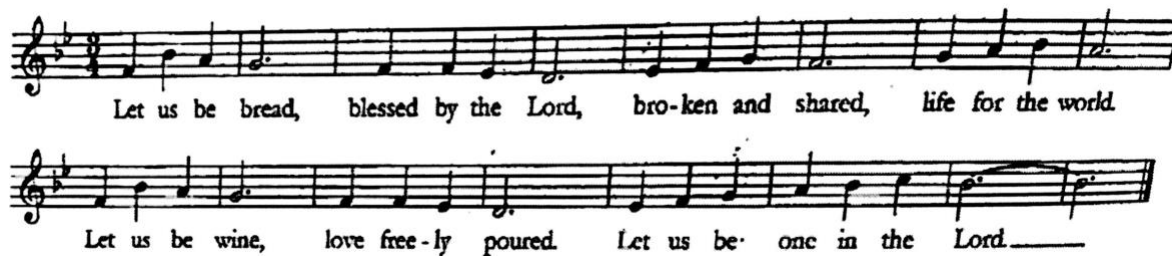
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia

### **FRACTION ANTHEM** (*sung by all*)



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love free-ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord.

### **The invitation to Holy Communion**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray together,

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**



## Closing Prayer

Risen Christ, when we have the simple desire to welcome your love, little by little a flame is kindled in the depths of our being. Grant that this flame of love, faint at first, is fuelled by the Holy Spirit to grow steadily into a radiant flame that warms and draws others to you. **Amen.**

### **Taize Chant: Wait for the Lord**

*(Please join your voice with the recording of the chant.)*

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!*

## **The Blessing**

My friends, life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make this earthly pilgrimage with us, so be swift to love, and make haste to do kindness, and the blessing of God, who comes to us as Creative Presence, Saving Grace and Life-giving Spirit be upon you and all whom you love this night, and forever more.

**Amen.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

*Contemplative Musical Offering.*

## **Worship Ministers**

Celebrant: Mother Barbara

Musician: Kevin Gorman

Vocalists: Jean Shepherd  
Milan Shepherd

Readers: Jeanine Goodwin  
Dina Carter Ishler  
Christina Luo  
Susan Sanders