

St. John's Parish
Williamstown, Massachusetts

We come from communities along the Hoosic River Valley in North Berkshire,
Southern Vermont, and Eastern New York, united in Christ
whose springs of living water we find here.

☞ *Is your cell phone off? Thanks for checking...* ☞



Confirmation and Holy Eucharist

Ascension Day

May 25, 2017

7:00 p.m.

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 The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration
 of all who today are confirmed, received, or have reaffirmed their baptismal vows.
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Prelude: Fugue in F Major, BuxWV 157

Dieterich Buxtehude

Processional Hymn No. 370

St. Patrick's Breastplate

Paul Heggeseeth, trumpet

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 47 (*sung*)

S-415

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Anthem: O rex gloriae

Luca Marenzio

Text translation:

O King of glory, Lord of all power,
 Who ascended to heaven on this day triumphant over all;
 Do not leave us as orphans,
 But send us the Father's promise,
 The spirit of truth.
 Alleluia.

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. When it is introduced,
respond, "Glory to you, Lord Christ."*

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

At conclusion, respond: "Praise to you, Lord Christ."

Brief silence

*(Be still. Breathe so as to relax. Rest in God, these few moments.
Parents, don't worry about child-sounds: let the silence speak to them.)*

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher

Presentation and Examination of Candidates

Bishop The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenters

I present these persons for **Confirmation**.

Carla Elizabeth Fosser (All Saints)
Mary Jane Scrivens (All Saints)
Nicholas Michael Thayer (All Saints)

Matthew Reynolds (St. Stephen's)
Valerie Andersen (St. Stephen's)

I present these persons **to be received** into this Communion.

Melissa Patnode (St. Stephen's)
Laura Szczepaniak (St. Stephen's)

Ralph Nightingale (St. Stephen's)
Barbara Nightingale (St. Stephen's)

I present these persons who desire **to reaffirm** their baptismal vows.

Susan Nina Davis (All Saints)
David Scrivens (All Saints)

Christi Deanne Adams Hill (All Saints)
Grace Elizabeth Wiggers (All Saints)

The Bishop asks the candidates Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate **I do.**

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate **I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

The Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Leader Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The candidates for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation now come forward one at a time.
Their families, clergy, and sponsors may join them.*

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant (*Name*) with your Holy Spirit; empower *him/her* for your service; and sustain *him/her* all the days of *his/her* life. **Amen.**

or this

(*Name*), we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

or this

(*Name*), may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

Renewal of Ordination Vows

Members of the Clergy now stand before the Bishop.

Bishop My brother and sister clergy, do you desire to reaffirm your ordinations vows?

Answer **We do.**

Bishop Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop Will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, offering all our labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?

Answer **I will.**

Bishop May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.

Answer **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.
Announcements follow.*

The Offering today will be designated for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Presentation Hymn: Adoro devote

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Music: *Adoro devote*, French church melody, Mode 5, *Processionale*, 1697.

Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship*

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.**

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and water; and every living thing. You made us in your image, male and female, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Setting: Betty Carr Pulkingham, from *Freedom Mass*. Based on traditional CAfrican melodies. © 1989 Celebration.
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The congregation may either stand or kneel from here on.

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

As Jesus taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

Greensleeves

ALL WHO WISH TO SHARE the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation are welcome at this altar. Fill the altar rail from right to left, and return to your seats via the Park Street aisle. Those who do not wish to receive may come to the altar rail to receive a blessing and are asked to cross arms over chest to signify this. ***If you do not wish to climb the sanctuary steps, Communion will be administered at the head of the aisle after it has been given at the rail.***

Communion Hymns:

No. 794, vss. 1, 2, 5 in Wonder, Love, and Praise

Tjänsterna

Verse 1 will be sung twice: first in Spanish, then again in English.

Verses 2 and 5 will be sung in English.

No. 307

Bryn Calfaria

Post-Communion Prayer (*said by all, standing*)

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn No. 460

Hyfrydol

Postlude: III. Allegro, from Sonata in D Major

Henry Purcell

Paul Heggeseeth, trumpet

Dismissal (*Response: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!*)

*Please join in a time of fellowship and refreshments
in the Upper Room after the service!*

Celebrant and Preacher

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, Bishop

Host

The Rev. Libby Wade, St. John's

Musicians

Bob Hansler, organ

Paul Heggeseth, trumpet

St. John's Choir

Crucifer

Nicholas Thayer, All Saints

Lectors

Claudia Ellet, St. John's

Gospeller

The Rev. Joseph Farnes, St. Stephen's

Eucharistic Ministers

The Rev. Cricket Cooper, St. Stephen's

The Rev. Mary Frances Curns, All Saints

Intercessor

The Rev. Michael Tuck, Trinity and St. Helena's

Reception after the Service

St. John's Parish Life Committee

Trumpeter Paul Heggeseth, having moved to Williamstown in 2013, has made himself at home in the local Berkshires music scene, having performed with a number of area ensembles, including the Berkshire Symphony, Sage City Symphony and the Eagles Band, as well as with ensembles at Williams College and MCLA. He holds degrees in trumpet performance from Saint Olaf College and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows (at Williamstown Commons)

Mary Jane Scrivens (All Saints)

David Scrivens (All Saints)

Berkshire Deanery Congregations

The Rev. Michael Tuck, Dean

All Saints Berkshires, North Adams

Christ Trinity Church, Sheffield

Grace Church in the Southern Berkshires, Great Barrington

St. Andrew's Church, Blackinton

St. John's Church, Williamstown

St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge

St. Helena's Chapel, Lenox

St. Luke's Church, Lanesborough

St. Stephen's Church, Pittsfield

Trinity Church, Lenox