



**ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II**

**MAY 11, 2025**

**10:00AM**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

*For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land in Gloucester; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. St. John's is gathered on the traditional territory of the Pawtucket, and we give thanks to them, and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.*

*They followed the seasons, hunted, fished, raised families, grieved for their dead, nourished their living, shared the stories of their ancestors, and considered themselves the caretakers of this place.*

# THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

## PRELUDE

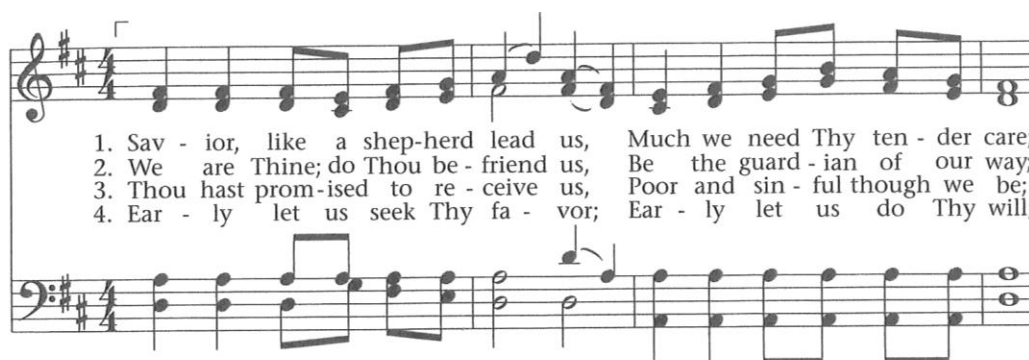
*Sheep May Safely Graze*

Amber Verser, *Oboe*  
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us*

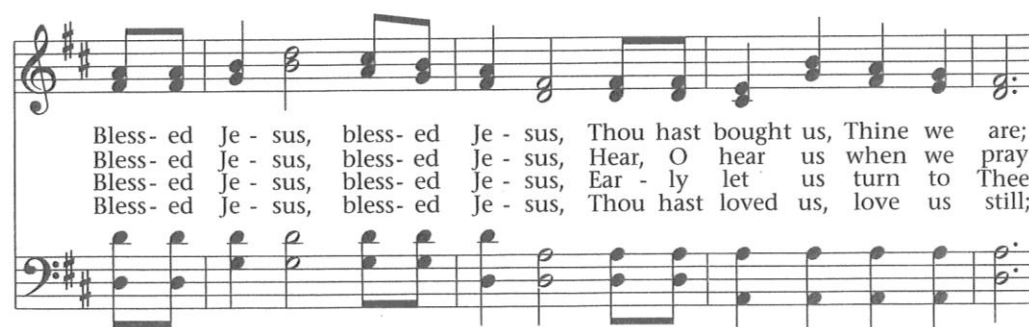
BRADBURY



1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten - der care;  
2. We are Thine; do Thou be - friend us, Be the guard - ian of our way;  
3. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;



In Thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre - pare:  
Keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray:  
Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:  
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our be - ings fill:



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

WORDS: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847; *Hymns for the Young*, 1836  
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

BRADBURY  
8.7.8.7.D.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

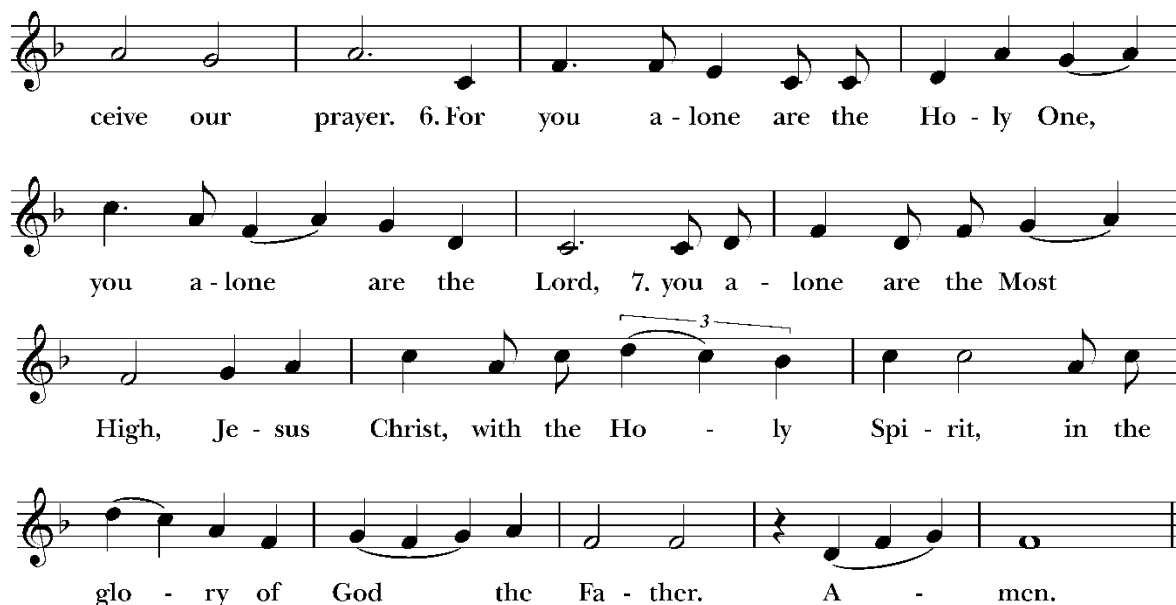
## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

## THE GLORIA

Blue Hymnal #S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray together.

**O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR MOTHER'S DAY

*Women's Uncommon Prayers (p. 364)*

*Celebrant* God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray together.

*The Celebrant continues*

On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms. Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away; for the mothers that loved us and those who feel short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered others in any way—those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God. **Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR ADVOCACY

Holy God, Three in One, you promise that wherever two or three are gathered in your name, you will be with them. We ask for your Spirit to guide us in nurturing new and existing local relationships that center one another's humanity, and to strengthen local, state, and national coalitions working for justice. The challenges we face are great, but so is our capacity to find community and hope together; help us to feel this truth and to act on it. Amen.

## THE CHORAL ANTHEM

*The Lord is my Shepherd*

Amber Verser, *Oboe*  
John Rutter (b. 1945)

## THE GREEK BIBLE

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydia was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

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

*Pause to reflect on reading.*

## THE PSALM *(read together in unison)*

Psalm 23 KJV

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. *(continue)***

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

## **THE GREEK BIBLE**

Revelation 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

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

*Pause to reflect on reading.*

# THE GOSPEL HYMN

*Of the Father's love begotten*

1982 Blue Hymnal #82  
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Sing stanzas 1-2 before the Gospel. Sing stanzas 3-4 after the Gospel.*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

*This hymn may be performed in equal note values:* ♪♪♪

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

## THE GOSPEL

John 10:22-30

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the

Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE HOMILY

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*New Zealand Book of Common Prayer 1989*

**You, O God are holy.**

**You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you.**

**You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.**

**You are with us now.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*written by Katherine Kussmaul*

*(During the prayers and confession, we invite you to stand or kneel, as you are able.)*

**Christ is Risen!**

**He is Risen Indeed!**

Risen Lord, hear our cry for help – for those surrounded by the shroud of death, for those covered by the mantle of dying, for those hemmed-in by illness, visible or veiled,  
**Hear our cry for mercy.**

For those weighed down with worries, for those carrying the burden of distress, for those overwhelmed by isolation,  
**Hear our cry for mercy.**

That we sense purpose beyond ourselves, that we perceive the needs of creation; that we stretch ourselves to respond. We offer prayers for our Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe and for all bishops, priests, seminarians and deacons, including Julia, Marya, Malcolm and Ali. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the Churches of the Concord River Deanery: Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton; St. Andrew's Church, Ayer; Trinity Church, Concord; St. Andrew's Church, Framingham; Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society.

**Hear our cry for communities of faith.**

For those who are wearied by addiction and recovery, for those who are tattered and worn, for those who collapse from exhaustion. Today we pray for those in our lives who are struggling; especially: **Jan** Goodwin, **Demetria**, **Thelma**, **Patty** Rhineland, **Faith** Berry, **Gloria** Herboldsheimer, **Barbara**, **Kevin**, **Andrea**, **Kathy**, **Sheree** and **Dick**, **Moir**a, **Macrina**, **Nancy**, **Jennifer**, **Marge**, **the American Cathedral in Paris**, **Debbie** and **Jeremy**, **Laureen**, **Bobby**, **Rümeysa Öztürk**, **Lauren**, **Gregory** Holmes Singleton, **Doug** Call, **Sarah** Larson, **Lydia** and **Pete**, **Kilmar**, **Lisa**, **Sophie**.

*Are there others?*

**Hear our cry for mercy.**

For the ways you accompany us through deep valleys, for the ways you lead us to still meadows, for the ways you provide all we need,

**Hear our cry of thanksgiving.**

Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all! Especially for women who have joined God and whom we miss dearly here on earth. For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children. For all the women who are expecting and aren't quite mothers yet! For the women who had children placed in their care through adoption and foster care. For those women who lost a child to death and found a way to carry on. We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Today we pray especially for those who have mothered us. *Are there any mothers you would like to mention?*

**Hear our cry of Thanksgiving.**

For blessing and breaking ordinary bread, for opening our eyes to recognize you, for transforming death in resurrection life. Today we give thanks for those who have died, especially Nancy Joyce. *Are there any you would like to name now?*

**Hear our cry of thanksgiving.**

That our ways be formed by Your Way, that our lives be shaped by Your Life, that our love be Your Love.

**Hear our cry for communities of faith.**

## THE CONFESSION

*posted on Rev-o-lution blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>*

Loving God, we profess resurrection and yet we have lived as if it is not true. We have not trusted you completely, received life from you fully, or given of ourselves freely. We have not loved as you have asked us to.

**God, have mercy.**

Forgive our sin. Reach out and touch the wounds of our hearts, and heal them.

**God, have mercy.**

From the grave of our sin, raise us up to new life. Restore our faith, renew our love, and grant us once again your deepest joy.

**God of all mercy, by the mystery of your grace, raise us up to new life with the Risen Christ. Amen.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Celebrant* Christ is here right now making peace among us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you!**

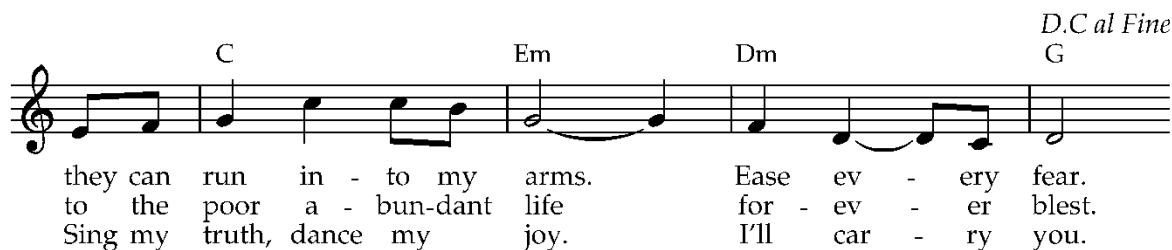
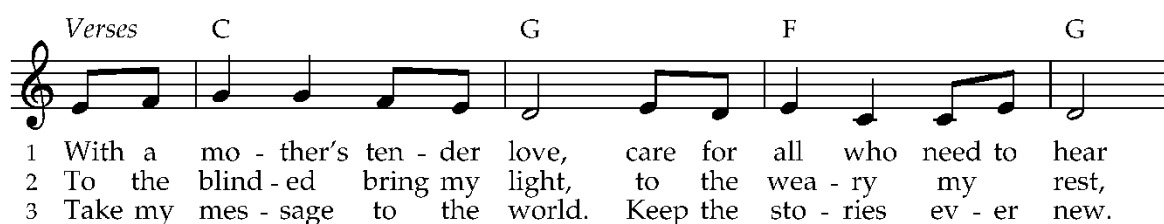
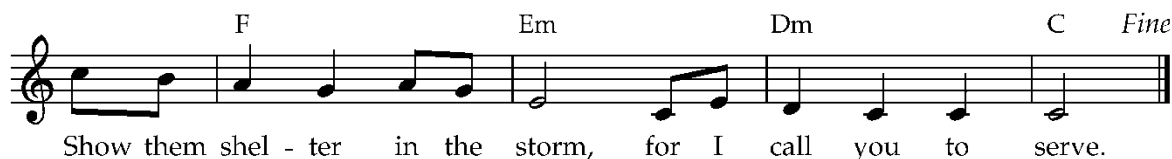
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Voices Found #100

*Be a shepherd for my flock*

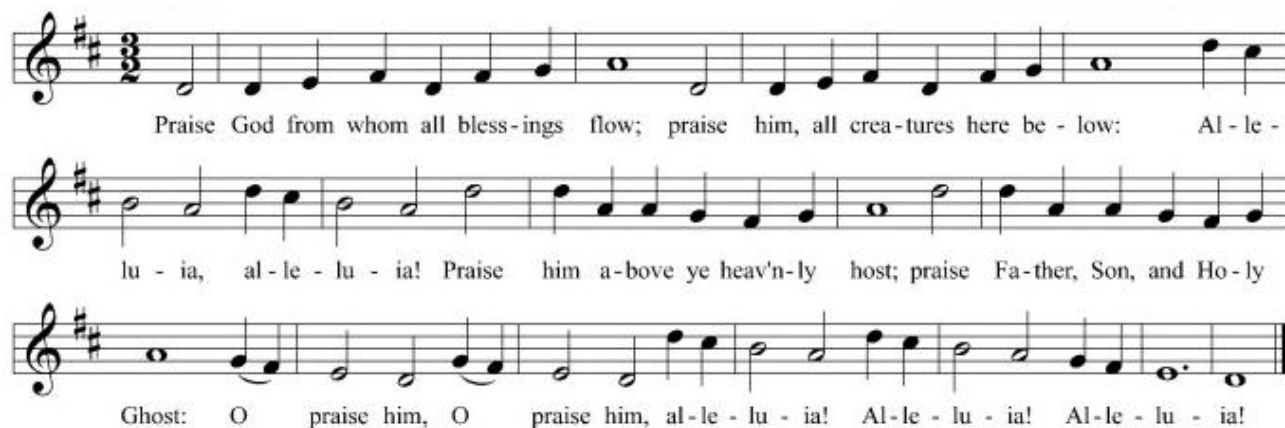
*During the Offertory Hymn, the gifts of wine and bread are brought to the Altar.*



Words and Music: Jane McAlister Pope © 1998 Jane McAlister Pope. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# THE DOXOLOGY

*The gifts of the people are brought to the Altar.*



# **THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week and the Altar Flowers are offered in thanksgiving to God by Patricia Anders on her 40th anniversary of graduating from USC and embarking on a new faith journey.*

*The Altar Candles are given by Janet Knott in honor of Angie J. Knott.*

### **WE GATHER AT THE TABLE**

The God who leads us to green pastures and still waters  
**Has brought us here together**

God has prepared this table in our midst  
**Here our cup overflows with God's abundance.**

God has set this table, it is God's  
**and so we welcome all to come and eat and drink from it.**

### **WE GIVE THANKS**

The Lord is our shepherd,  
**Our guide, our comforter, our protector.**

And so we give thanks  
**For green pastures, for overflowing cups, for ongoing presence  
it is good to give thanks.**

God of Creation, God of Life, God of Love, as we gather at this table  
we remember many gifts:  
**the world around us, bursting with the springtime promise of new life;  
family and friends with whom we share our lives;  
food and drink to sustain our bodies;  
fellowship to sustain our souls;  
Your abundance overflowing in our lives.**

God made known in words, and in the Word.  
**We remember the many ways You have been revealed in the world**

In the glory of creation but also in through the witness of our forebears in the faith.  
**People like Abraham and Sarah – wanderers seeking a new land.**  
**People like Moses and Miriam – leading their people out of freedom and sharing a vision for how they could live.**  
**People like Paul, Dorcas and Lydia – sharing a new vision, a new Way.**

We remember that You have always had a hope, a vision for how we would live together in peace and justice.  
**And yet we remember that we have often lost sight of the vision, have left peace and justice in the dust.**

And yet, like a shepherd searching for a lost lamb, you have not given up on Your children.  
**Sending prophets to call us back to the hope, reminding us how we are meant to live, challenging us to change our ways.**

### **WE REMEMBER THE STORY**

After many different messengers had come and gone, we remember, God of Life, that you chose a new path.  
**And so you came to walk among us as one who was fully human, just like us.**

In the man Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, we met You anew  
**In him we see Your passion, in him we hear and know Your voice.**

Remembering the life of Jesus, we consider what he taught.  
**He welcomed all into his presence, offering words of love and forgiveness where others offered judgement.**

He ate with those others called outcasts.  
**He spoke of a new way of living, of a world that would be changed, of a Kingdom of love and peace and justice.**  
He called us to the table of life, where we are fed in abundance.

For being true to his understanding of You, Jesus was arrested, tried, and executed.  
**Put to death on a cross.**

He knew the darkness of the valley of shadow, he felt abandoned. And yet You were there.  
**And then, even as his friends walked in the valley of darkness and shadow, something amazing happened.**

Where they looked for signs of death they found the promise of life. An empty tomb, a resurrected Christ, a changed world.

**And so in this Easter season we proclaim the joy of New Life.**

Here at this table we remember the night before Jesus' arrest.

**He gathered with his friends for the central meal of faith.**

During that meal he took bread, blessed, broke it, and passed it to them saying:

**This is my body, broken by and for the world. Take it, eat it, and remember me.**

Then later he took the cup of wine. Blessed it and passed it among them saying:

**This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink this remember me.**

So, God of the table, we continue to eat and drink and remember. We share in this foretaste of the Banquet that is to come.

## WE INVOKE THE SPIRIT

Guiding, comforting, protecting God;

**send your Spirit upon and among us here and now.**


**Through the presence of the Spirit may we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, calling us out to new pastures, leading us to fresh waters, comforting and protecting us with rod and staff and love.**

Spirit of life and love, fall upon us all, we pray these things in the name of the Good Shepherd, the Risen Christ, who taught his friends to pray together singing:

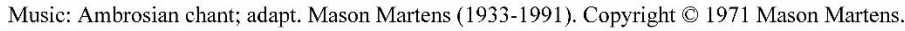
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blue Hymnal #S148

*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.



The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.  
The Cup we Share is the Cup of Love.  
Here at this table we share the abundance of God's gifts.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!

*St. John's welcomes everyone to come to God's table, for communion, to share in Christ's sustaining life. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread and sipping from the chalice. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. You may also come to the altar simply for a blessing, while others come for communion. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.*

*The King of Love my Shepherd Is  
My Song is Love Unknown*

ST. COLUMBIA  
LOVE UNKNOWN

**God our shepherd, we have gathered at the table You have prepared.  
We have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your overflowing abundance.  
May this meal embolden, enrich, and nurture us as we go out to live as people of  
The Way. May goodness and mercy flow through us all the days of our lives as we  
live in your presence forever. Amen.**

May God help you receive this life that rises up and soars above; grant us courage for trusting, fearless love and help us lose the lives we cling to; receiving new ones, bright with Resurrection light. **AMEN.**

# THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Lead on, O cloud of Presence*

LANCASHIRE

1. Lead on, O cloud of Pres - ence, the ex - o - dus is come,  
2. Lead on, O fier - y Pil - lar, we fol - low yet with fears,  
3. Lead on, O God of free - dom, and guide us on our way,

in wil - der - ness and des - ert our tribe shall make its home.  
but we shall come re - joic - ing though joy be born of tears.  
and help us trust the prom - ise through strug - gle and de - lay.

Our slav - ery left be - hind us, new hopes with - in us grow.  
We are not lost, though wan - dering, for by your light we come,  
We pray our sons and daugh - ters may jour - ney to that land

We seek the land of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.  
and we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.  
where jus - tice dwells with mer - cy, and love is law's de - mand.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (Exod. 13:21-22)  
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

Words © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

LANCASHIRE  
76.76 D

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## THE POSTLUDE

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

arr. David Stowe (b. 1955)

## WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

## NEWCOMER'S WELCOME

Please accept our warmest welcome! We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest. Please join us for coffee hour, which is located in the Parish Hall, so our community can get to know you informally. We have two restrooms; one (handicapped accessible) is located next to the Parish Hall, the other restroom is located on the second floor up the stairs from the Parish Hall kitchen.

## PARTICIPATING IN THE LITURGY

*The People of God gathered in St. John's Church*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Marya DeCarlen
<i>Lector</i>	Patricia Anders
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sue Lupo
<i>LEM</i>	Geoff Pope
<i>Ushers</i>	Dani Stotzer, Ian Bedford
<i>Musicians</i>	Director of Music – John Churchwell, The Congregation, The Choir, Amber Verser, <i>Oboist</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Dani Stotzer
<i>Flower Guild</i>	Gail Crane, Kip Elliz
<i>Live Streaming</i>	Norm Barr

**COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is hosted by Connie DeSimone, Patricia Anders and Priscilla Gerrard.

**THE ACTION LUNCHESES** were provided this weekend by Bob and Carolyn Stewart.

## **PRAYERFUL ADVOCACY**

At St. John's Gloucester, we will be joining parishes and dioceses across the county in sharing new prayers each week for the vulnerable among us facing challenges, fears, and threats. We will name many of the harms unfolding around us and acknowledge what is being lost, and threatened. We are united in prayer, creating space for grief in the face of denial, and freeing space in our souls for hope. These prayers are not a replacement for action; they offer grounding and space to discern what actions each of us feel compelled to take. -- The Episcopal Public Policy Network

## **HERSTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY**

Mother's Day in the United States has a history all its own—and it's more complicated than greeting cards might lead you to believe. There were repeated efforts to establish a Mother's Day holiday and conflicting ideas about what it should stand for and how it should be observed. From a call for women to improve global policymaking and seek peace to a day to honor women's work and role in the family, the history of the holiday reveals multiple insights into how mothers shape the world.

Julia Ward Howe, best known as the author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," was an abolitionist, a women's rights advocate, and a peace activist. In 1870, horrified by the death and destruction she had witnessed during the Civil War and concerned by the Franco-Prussian war unfolding abroad, Howe issued what has come to be known as her "Mother's Day Proclamation," originally called an "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world." In it, Howe urged the creation of an international body of women who could find ways to avoid war and bloodshed. When that didn't happen, Howe sought to establish an annual Mother's Day for Peace, to be celebrated in June. That did happen in a few places, for a while.

The version of Mother's Day celebrated today is more directly rooted in the work of Ann Jarvis and her daughter, Anna Jarvis, who established the holiday to honor her mother. Frustratingly for the younger Jarvis, most people don't celebrate it today the way she intended.

Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis (1832–1905) bore more than a dozen children. Most of the children died from diseases such as diphtheria or measles, which were common during her day in the Appalachian area of Virginia (later West Virginia) where she lived. Jarvis worked hard in her community to try to help other mothers and families avoid the tragedies she had suffered. Part of a national public health movement populated in large part by women reformers, Jarvis organized "Mothers' Work Clubs" and promoted special "Mother's Work Days," when women would collaboratively collect trash and undertake other projects to improve local environmental conditions and their neighbors' understanding of hygiene.

The focus of Jarvis' work changed when the civil war began. In 1868, despite threats of violence, she organized a "Mother's Friendship Day" to bring families from both sides of the war together to try to restore a sense of community. It's possible that Howe's proclamation two years later was inspired by Jarvis; the two knew each other. At the very least, Jarvis and Howe shared the belief that women—and especially mothers—were best suited to bring people together with a goal of peace.

After Ann Jarvis' death, her daughter, Anna Jarvis (1864–1948), set out to honor her mother's legacy by establishing a national Mothers' Day on the second Sunday in May, the day her mother had died. She chose white carnations as an emblem and urged people to write heartfelt letters of gratitude to their mothers (in Anna Jarvis' eyes, sending a pre-printed card didn't count). Anna succeeded in her quest for official recognition, and President Wilson issued a proclamation of the first national Mother's Day just before the start of World War I in 1914.

Anna Jarvis, however, soon grew discontented as she noted increasing commercialization of the celebration as in her eyes, a crass holiday benefitting florists and greeting card companies more than honoring the mothering work done by women. Anna was so distraught over the way Americans observed the holiday she had worked hard to establish that she started a petition to have it recalled in 1943. Five years later she died penniless in a sanitarium where her bills were paid by the same greeting card companies and florists she despised!

## **SIP, STUDY, AND SNACK DURING EASTER SEASON**

Four Sundays after worship: 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/25, and 6/1, 11:45-1:00 pm in the Thompson Room. Join us as we reflect together on the recent Washington Post Series on the Cycles of Aging by Anne Lamott. (*Articles will be distributed during class and read together, there is no homework!*) Invite a friend who is aging!

## DATES TO KEEP IN MIND AND HEART FOR OUR WORSHIP LIVES TOGETHER

May 11	Good Shepherd Sunday/ Mother's Day
May 25	Memorial Day and Prayers for Healing
June 1	Pride Sunday
June 8	Pentecost Sunday
June 15	Father's Day
June 22	1662 Service in honor of the 250th Re-enactment of Bunker Hill
June 25	Niles Beach Service
June 29	Prayers for Healing
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Independence Day
August 31	Labor Day
September 14	St. John's Sunday



### St. John's Gloucester

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Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse  
Clerk: Geoff Pope  
Treasurer: Karen Kasper, Assistant Treasurer: Sue Lupo  
**VESTRY:** 2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Rick Britton, Sarah Larson  
2027: Maryann Tapiro  
2028: Sue Lupo, Doug Parsons, Lindsay Smith, Barbara Soreng

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