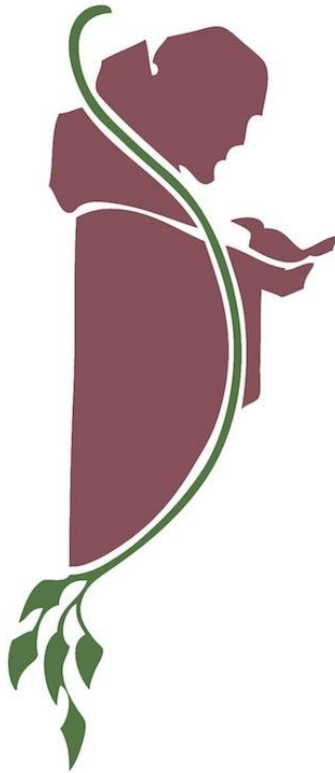


# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

10:00 a.m.



*We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing  
witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.*

## ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



**Welcome** in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

The fifty days of Easter provide us with an opportunity to renew ourselves to the Baptismal Covenant and awaken to the presence of God's Holy Spirit in our lives. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus we pray that Christ will be revealed to us "on the Way."

*All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it; please be in touch with one of the clergy or ushers to make this request.*

### **ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:**

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

At 10:00 a.m. our hymns and service music is from the blue Hymnal found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

## HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

### THE WORD OF GOD

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

*Awake and sing the song*

**Hymnal 181**

**EASTER ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**BCP 355**

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

**GLORIA:** *sung*

**Hymnal S-280**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING:** *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 Lydda 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 The Lord is my shepherd;<br>I shall not be in want.  | 5 You spread a table before me in the<br>presence of those who trouble me;<br>you have anointed my head with oil,<br>and my cup is running over. |
| 2 He makes me lie down in green<br>pastures and leads me beside still<br>waters.   | 6 Surely your goodness and mercy<br>shall follow me all the days of my<br>life, and I will dwell in the house of<br>the Lord for ever.           |
| 3 He revives my soul<br>and guides me along right pathways<br>for his Name's sake.   |  |
| 4 Though I walk through the valley of<br>the shadow of death, I shall fear no<br>evil; for you are with me; your rod<br>and your staff, they comfort me. |  |

**SECOND READING:** *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."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.      *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*

**Hymnal 343**

**GOSPEL:** *John 10:22-30*

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

**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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**SERMON:**

The Rev. Jane Beebe

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

...for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; for our own parish of St. Francis, our clergy, staff, wardens and vestry; for the ministry of unCommon Ground; for the mission of Renewal Works  
...for The Anglican Church in Japan; for the parish of St. Andrew's, Longmeadow; for the mission of Wachusett Food Pantry;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

...for Donald, our President and Maura, our Governor;

... for all Federal and State employees, for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, David Lane, Riley Smith, James Cimochoowski;

...for the peace and well-being of all international students, studying abroad in the United States;

...for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan, for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Renee Whitenett and Laura Barry; Tyler, Meg and Alice Will; David and Susan Williams; Jane Williams;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

...for those in need of healing; Rich, Eric Warner, Kathleen Lloyd Jones, Jack, Ann Murphy, John Dougherty, Paul Stanovich, Charles Delisle, Matteo Padilla, Tom, Joanne, Elizabeth Heath, Bev, Sheri Dumas, Judy Crosby, Brenda, Dave and Diane, Hilda Schinsing, Brad, Josh McCrillis, Judy Capone, Mary Lee Kraushaar, Jen Gadowski, Sharon Seale;

...those suffering from homelessness and all types of addiction and mental illness; the residents and staff of Holden Nursing Home; and those who mourn; and those we name at this time, either silently or aloud;

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and that they may share with Francis, Clare and all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant adds a final collect.*

**THE PEACE**

**BCP 360**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERTORY HYMN:**

*Glorious things of thee are spoken*

**Hymnal 522**

**OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY**

10:00 a.m.

Tune: Hymnal 380

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;***

***Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.***



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer B*

BCP 367

*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 every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS (sung)**

**Hymnal S130**

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Francis, Clare, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 pray,

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BCP 364**

**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.**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM:**

*Agnus Dei*

**Hymnal S164**

### **COMMUNION HYMN:**

*The King of love my shepherd is*

**Hymnal 645**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**BCP 365**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **EASTER BLESSING**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN:**

*Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!*

**Hymnal 205**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

**BCP 366**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### **SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:**

Altar Guild: Roz Glanville, Julie Russell, Carol Perkins, Kari Currie

Nursing Home: Chris Berglund

Usher: Craig Stanovich

Reader: Leah Giles

LEM: Christina Melzar

Coffee Hour: The Dixons

We welcome The Rev. Jane Beebe and thank her for being with us today.

# St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness  
to  
Christ's Love

Office Phone: 508-829-3344    Email: [parishadmin@stfrancisholden.org](mailto:parishadmin@stfrancisholden.org)  
Web Page: [www.stfrancisholden.org](http://www.stfrancisholden.org)

Rector: The Rev. Patrick R. Perkins  
Music Minister: Elizabeth Keusch  
Parish Administrator: Elena Poirier  
Church School: Amy Mellors

[rector@stfrancisholden.org](mailto:rector@stfrancisholden.org)  
[music@stfrancisholden.org](mailto:music@stfrancisholden.org)  
[parishadmin@stfrancisholden.org](mailto:parishadmin@stfrancisholden.org)  
[churchschool@stfrancisholden.org](mailto:churchschool@stfrancisholden.org)

