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# WELCOME

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## *St. Clare's Episcopal Church*

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**April 28, 2024**

*We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.  
Please silence all cell phones. Flash photography is not allowed.*

**W**elcome to St. Clare's! We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here, and welcome to join us in Holy Communion.

If this is your first time visiting with us, we invite you to take a moment to fill out the Visitor's Card located in the pew, or the Visitor's Book in the Narthex, so that we may get to know you better. We hope that you will consider joining our community as we grow together in relationship with God and with one another.

We use the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) in our Sunday worship together. The bulletin you are holding will guide you to the page numbers. The BCP is red. Our Hymnal 1982 is blue. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to turn to the person next to you to ask. We are happy to guide you.

If you have a pastoral concern or need, or would like more information about the Episcopal Church, please feel free to call the church office at 706-745-0607 to make an appointment with me.

Blessings,  
Liz+



### **An Invitation to Communion**

We hope that you will accept our invitation to join us at the Table. All are welcome. The usher will signal when it is time for your pew to come forward. You may stand or kneel at the altar. There are several ways that you may participate with us. When the bread is offered, place one hand on top of the other and extend them forward to accept the bread. If you do not wish to take the wine, please cross your arms over your chest. If you would like to accept the wine, you may drink the wine from the first chalice or the second chalice-bearer will dip the wafer in the wine (intinction) and place it in your hands. If you would rather have the bread only with no wine, please let the priest know by holding up one finger. If you prefer not to receive communion at all but wish to receive a blessing, come to the altar rail, cross your arms over your chest, and the priest will offer a blessing.

# HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

## The Word Of God

Prelude	Christ is Alive	Leonardo Antonio Di Chiara
Processional	We know that Christ is raised and dies no more	Hymn 296
Opening Acclamation		BCP 355
Gloria		Hymn S-278*
The Collect of the Day		BCP 225
The Lessons		
The First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40		See right
Psalm 22:24-30		See insert
The Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21		See right
Sequence Hymn	In Christ there is no East or West	Hymn 529
The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8		See right
The Sermon		The Rev. Ceci Duke
	<i>A period of silence is kept</i>	
The Nicene Creed		BCP 358
The Prayers of the People Form III		BCP 387
The Peace		BCP 360

## The Holy Communion

Choral Anthem	Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me	arr. K. Lee Scott
Presentation Hymn	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow	Hymn 380
Eucharistic Prayer B		BCP 367
The Sanctus		Hymn S-128*
The Lord's Prayer ( <i>contemporary form, spoken</i> )		BCP 364
The Breaking of the Bread		BCP 364
Fraction Anthem		Hymn S-154*
Distribution of Communion		BCP 364
<i>All persons are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those not receiving may come to the communion rail to receive a blessing; please cross your arms over your chest. If you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer, please say "gluten-free" to the priest.</i>		
<i>The congregation is encouraged to join in singing the communion hymns.</i>		
Communion Hymns	Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove	Hymn 512
	Like the murmur of the dove's song	Hymn 513
Post Communion Prayer		BCP 365
Processional Hymn	God is love, let heaven adore him	Hymn 379
Postlude	Voluntary in C Major	Henry Heron

*\*All hymns beginning with "S" (Service Music) are found in the front of the blue hymnal.*

***You are invited to join us for fellowship after the service, downstairs in the Parish Hall.***

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**Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

**1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

**Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:1-8)**

*People: Glory to you Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

**Prayers of the People**

**For the sick or in need:** Trisha, Harry, the Bassett family and Jack, Michael, Jenna, Mac, Stuart, David, Martha, and Mike; for Nancy, Kathleen, Angela, Keith, Sharon, Renea, Carolyn, MaryAnn, Jane, Mary, Joy, McKinley, Katie, Edwina, Terri, Herb H., Al, Josh, Roz, Bob, Ann, Delores, Mary Lou, Pat, and Joan.

**For those who travel:** Michelle C., Liz, Kees, and Jo Ellen.

**For those who have died:** Joey Cordy, all who have died in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and all who have died in the war in the Middle East and in wars around the world.

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Christy Jewell, Brook Ford, Mark Groesbeck, Julie Yost, and Grace Harkins.

***Today we welcome back the  
Rev. Ceci Duke as supply.***

**Those Who Serve**

Sunday, April 28, 2024  
Verger – Eli Smith-Foot  
Crucifer – Michael Smith-Foot  
Lector 1 – Susan Marr  
Lector 2 – Michael Smith-Foot  
Eucharistic Minister – Sandy Bell  
Ushers – Lynne Joynes & Jerome Laux  
VPOD – Mary Buonagura  
Altar Guild – Kathy McNeese  
Flower Guild – Patti Albritton  
Videographer – Haley Dyer  
Fellowship – Scotti & Skip Kershner

**2024 Vestry**

Frank Kinmonth, Senior Warden  
Pat Murray, Junior Warden  
Lamar Barber, Treasurer  
Jo Ellen Clow, Clerk  
Mary Buonagura  
Amy Cox  
Butch Duryea  
Lynne Joynes  
Lisa McElfresh  
Michael Smith-Foot  
Steve Wilson

**Clergy and Staff**

Bishop of Diocese of Atlanta  
The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright  
Rector—The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt, OA  
Liz@StClaresEpiscopal.org  
Parish Administrator—Kitty Taylor  
Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org  
Treasurer—Lamar Barber  
treasurer@stclaresepiscopal.org  
Organist-Choirmaster—Karen Calloway  
edwins@windstream.net  
Sunday Sexton—Billy Clayton

St. Clare's Episcopal Church  
777 Ledford Road, Blairsville, GA 30512  
Office Hours: Mon—Thurs 9:00-5:00  
Phone: 706-745-0607  
Email: Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org  
On the Web: StClaresEpiscopal.org

**Weekly Services**

Sundays, HE Rite II, 10:30 AM  
Wednesdays, Centering Prayer, 11:30 AM  
Wednesdays, HE Rite II, 12:15 PM  
Morning Prayer is 8:00 AM M-F  
Compline is 7:30 PM M-F  
Choral Compline, First Sundays, 7:00PM

**We will hold a 3-week Adult Formation Series** on May 12th, 19th, and 26th. Join Liz+ at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall for an introduction to Anglican spirituality (The Episcopal Church). We will not meet for Adult Education next Sunday, May 5th.

**Each Wednesday morning** a group meets in the Assisi Chapel for Centering Prayer (CP). CP is a silent prayer, focused on making space for God's movement and action in our lives. Beginning at 11:30, the first 10 minutes are set aside for helping newcomers to be introduced to the practice. The prayer time lasts 20 minutes and is followed by Holy Eucharist at 12:15 in the chapel.

**Thursday Book Study** is currently reading Zero at the Bone: Fifty Entries Against Despair by Christian Wiman. All are welcome! We meet by Zoom each Thursday from 4 to 5 PM.

**We will celebrate Linda Boyett** during Fellowship on Sunday, May 5th, for her years of service to the Altar Guild.

**We will celebrate our graduating seniors**, Benton Gregory and Lily Harkins, on Sunday, May 12th.

**Our Annual Parish Picnic will be held** after the Pentecost service on Sunday, May 19th. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by the church. Please bring a side dish to share. If you have something red in your closet, wear it to help us celebrate Pentecost!

**Our parish will change to an online directory** over the coming months. After July 1st, the printed directory will no longer be available. More information to come.