

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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"We are God's family. We welcome all at Christ's table. We embrace the energy of youth and honor the wisdom of one another. We serve our Lord with faith, love and joy."



April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
10 AM

Welcome to St. Peter's. *All are invited to God's table and fellowship. We welcome those from many backgrounds into our time together on Sunday. We worship weekly and pray daily. We remember who we are in God's Spirit.*

The Gathering

Gathering Hymn #296 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity: (All)

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.

Hymn of Praise A Celtic Prayer

Come I this day to the Father; come I this day to the Son; come I this day to the Holy Spirit heavenly light. Come I this day with God, Come I this day with Christ, come I this day with the Spirit, the Spirit of kindly balm. Amen.

Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Word of God

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.

Psalm 22:24-30

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

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.

Sequence Hymn #529 In Christ there is no East or West

Gospel John 15:1-8

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.”

Sermon The Rev. Annette Joseph

Apostle’s Creed

Presider We affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider Do you believe and trust in God?

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

Presider Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People I believe and trust in Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Presider Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe and trust 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. Amen.

Prayers of the People Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Thomas our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers; especially for St. Alban, Cape Elizabeth, St. John, Bangor, For new members of the Church, penitents, and seekers
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence The People may add their own petitions
Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence The People may add their own thanksgivings
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Presider says Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Birthday's, anniversaries, announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn #379 God is love, let heaven adore him

Doxology Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here
below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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: 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.

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:

Celebrant and People

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.

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer: (said together)

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.*

Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn # 448 O love, how deep, how broad

Dismissal Let us go forth in the name of Christ! Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Announcements

If you need to reach Rev. Annette Joseph call (207) 890-8188 or arjoseph7@gmail.com and remember she is at school between 7-2 Mon – Fri and she will respond as soon as she is free.

Casual Sunday/workday is May 19th and we have many jobs to do. Please make sure to watch out for the help list.

Vestry Retreat Saturday, June 1st is the from 10am – 3pm.

NOTICE: St. Peter's will be emailing a weekly newsletter through mailchimp. It's called e-Phish Tales newsletter. Please click the link that says Sunday Service Bulletin to view.

How to Subscribe to mailchimp: If you have not subscribed to mailchimp and want to receive the e-Phish Tales newsletter go to stpetersbtidgton.org website to subscribe. It is on the Home Page.

Lake Region Lifelong Learning, AKA Senior college of Bridgton: to sign up the Registration forms will be on the Narthex table.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Parish Library: Now is a time to learn more about how churches operate successfully in our always-changing times. The latest edition of The Vestry Handbook (4th Revised Edition) by Christopher L. Weber is available on the bookstand. This 2024 version has been updated to reflect the current canons of our church with attention to the issues of diversity and inclusion; the needs of small congregations, including finances; and the spiritual needs of vestry, staff, rector, and volunteers. It can be a good resource for each of us.

Just for fun and a laugh, check out Vestry Vice! No, the book is not a "how-to" but is a cozy British "who-done-it" with an intriguing title. Boasting quirky characters and an inquisitive vicar with an extraordinary gift, this is the sixth book of the Isle of Wesberrey series of murder mysteries.

Reminder: You can look at all the titles in our collection by visiting the church website: stpetersbridgton.org

Next, click "MENU"

Then click "Our Church"

Scroll down and click "Our Library"

And finally, click "Visit our online Library Catalog"

You may also visit the library located in the church office. Please be sure to use the sign-out cards located in the back of each book.

If anyone has someone, they wish prayers for, please call Pat Sprackland or Carmen Doughty.

St. Peters is doing a Parish Directory update. Please email any changes with your address, email or phone to stpetersbridgtonmaine@gmail.com.

We have updated St. Peter's website: Click the link below to visit the website <https://stpetersbridgton.org/index.html>.

We are collecting food for the Bridgton Food Bank. There is a box on the table in the Narthex for the items.

Reminder: Bridgton Public Library started a program where they will deliver once a month, a box of free books to the church for anyone to take. Also, there is a form in the box of books that they would appreciate it if you could take the time to fill out, so that it can help them learn what theme or topics that are of interest. And the box of books are on the table in the Narthex.

Regarding the Chalice: Per the instructions from the Diocese, we have gone back to the Chalice for Communion, and we are not supposed to have Intinction (dunking) of the wafer into the Chalice. If you choose not to sip from the Chalice, touching the wafer to the Chalice is considered Communion In Kind.