



the well

Order of Worship

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

May 3, 2026

5:00 p.m.

*We welcome you to Christ Church Cathedral. Since 1839,
this Christian community has gathered for worship.*

 *The Cathedral is equipped with a hearing loop for assisted listening via telecoil.*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

five o'clock in the evening

THE REV. ELIZABETH PARKER, *Affiliated Clergy*
Celebrant

SARA DACON, *Cantor*

BECKY BAXTER, *Music Coordinator and Harpist for The Well*

AMY WIGGS, *flautist*

FRAN KOINER, *cellist*

*Good evening and welcome to The Well. The order of service has been adapted
to observe the season of Easter. We are so glad that you are here.*

Come close, draw near, and receive the grace of God.

OPENING MUSIC

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH AND IRISH TUNES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR THE EVENING

Christ, you are risen from the dead. We are risen with you. May our life never deny this eternal life, this peace and hope and joy. Praise and glory to the God of life who is stronger than all kinds of death. **Amen. Alleluia.**

Please stand.

HYMN

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
2. Christ has risen for the people
3. Christ has risen and for ever

Christ has risen where hope died
whom he died to love and save;
lives to challenge and to change

as he said and as he promised,
Christ has risen for the women
all whose lives are messed or man - gled,

as we doubt - ed and denied.
bring - ing flowers to grace his grave.
all who find re - li - gion strange.

Let the moon embrace the bless - ing;
Christ has risen for dis - ci - ples
Christ is risen, Christ is pres - ent

let the sun sus - tain the cheer;
hud - dled in an up - stairs room.
mak - ing us what he has been:

let the world con - firm the ru - mor:
God whose word in - spired cre - a - tion
ev - i - dence of trans - for - ma - tion

Christ is risen, God is here!
can't be si - lenced by the tomb.
in which God is known and seen.

Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1988 ~ text © 1988 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) SUO GAN,
Welsh mel. arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011 ~ Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. CCL # 11426131; onelicense.net # 726591-A

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Generous God, whose way is love, whose truth is searching, whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord: as you have opened for us your house of many rooms, so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved, and share the work of peace; through Jesus Christ, the image of God. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

In te, Domine, speravi

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
 deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me; *
 make haste to deliver me.
Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
 for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
 for you are my tower of strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
 for you have redeemed me,
 O Lord, O God of truth.
My times are in your hand; *
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
 and in your loving-kindness save me.

Please stand.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

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

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will

also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All sit.

THE REFLECTION

A period of silence is observed following the Reflection.

The People remain seated.

HYMN

Sung 3 times.

Christ as a light il - lu - mine and guide us,
Christ as a shield pro - tect us from harm;
this night draw near us, be here with - in us,
guard - ing our sleep and light - ing our dawn.
Christ in the lone - ly, Christ in the hun - gry,
Christ in the sleep - less Christ in the worn.
Christ as a light il - lu - mine and guide them,
Christ as a shield pro - tect them from harm.

text by Ray Simpson from Celtic Hymn Book #27 ~ music by Becky Baxter 11 July 2019, paraphrase of the Scottish tune "Crodh-Laoigh Nam Bodach" (The Old Man's Calf) from a 19th Century MS collection ~ Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. CCL# 11426131; onelicense.net # 726591-A

THE NICENE CREED

The People stand.

Let us now stand and join the tradition of the saints who have gone before us, affirming our faith together by saying the ancient words of the Nicene Creed.

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.**

INTERCESSIONS FOR EASTER

The intercessor says

Jesus has risen from the dead! Alleluia!

By his cross he has defeated the power of evil; and through his resurrection we are set free. Alleluia! Lord, without your resurrection our faith would be empty and without hope. But you are alive, and we rejoice and dance and wonder in the mystery of your presence among us.

We pray for your church: free us from the shackles of guilt and legalism, and help us to proclaim the message of healing and forgiveness for which you died.

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, your friends and disciples must have been utterly bereft at your death, with all their hope and purpose broken. So we pray now for those who are in darkness and pain today: those facing the keen disappointment of broken hopes; lives damaged by broken relationships and broken trust; people with broken hearts; bodies broken by torture; and spirits broken by injustice;

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

We pray, Lord, for broken communities, and we ask your forgiveness for our own apathy, and our desire to wash our hands of involvement in the plight of others.

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers, and take them up into your creative energy of love which you let loose into the world on those extraordinary Passover days.

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

SILENT PRAYER AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Following the Intercessions during the instrumental music, you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayer. As we see others light candles, we recognize that we are all carrying prayer concerns known to us alone, and we are reminded to treat one another with kindness and care. Tapers and votives are located to the right of the altar and in front of the transept to the left. Please feel free to go to either of these places to light a candle.

The Celebrant will be available to anoint with oil all those who wish to come forward for healing prayer.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

O Risen Christ, you breathe your Holy Spirit upon us like a gentle breeze and tell us: "Peace be yours." We open ourselves to your peace, letting it penetrate the harsh and rocky ground of our hearts. Come and lead us to wait in silence, to let a ray of hope shine through in our world. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The Celebrant says

Christ descended to death and hell, passed through doors locked by fear to breathe the Spirit of peace and make us one humanity; nothing can now separate us from the love of God.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord,
after which they may be seated.*

*To support the ministry outreach of the
Cathedral, please scan to donate.*



OFFERTORY HYMN

Sung 4 times.

Christ, you are light for those who fol - low you. You
come to bring to all the light of life.

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The Holy Communion

The people stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

We praise you, God of freedom, for you breathed life into the void and showed yourself as the one who loves in freedom.

From the nothingness of slavery you called a people into being and led them to springs of life; the presence of your glory went with shattered exiles into strange and distant lands and gathered from the valley of despair the flesh and blood of living hope.

In Jesus you confronted the powers that killed and oppressed; you spoke to those considered dead and helped them stand again; he taught us to die that we might live.

He gave himself for us tortured and forsaken, but he could not be confined by death; in the garden he speaks our name, in the breaking of the bread he shows himself among us; by the lakeside, in the new day, he calls us to take up his work.

Therefore, with all who lost faith, all who walked away in sadness, with the women at the tomb, and the men who hid in fear we confess ourselves surprised by the suddenness of dawn and join the undying song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we come in memory and hope, responding to your call and the promise that echoes from the dawn of all time. May mind and heart be held by your self-giving love as we stand before the cross, approach the empty tomb and praise the one whose name is lifted high above all earthly power.

Receive our broken offering through his all-powerful grace, and bind us in communion with all who share your gifts; through Jesus Christ, in whom all ages and all the worlds are drawn into the ceaseless love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ;

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People **May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

At the direction of the ushers you are invited to form a single line in the central aisle to receive Communion in front of the altar.

The sacrament of Holy Communion has been precious to Christians for 2,000 years. It is a way in which many sense the reality of God's forgiveness, our union with God and each other, and the eternal life to which we belong. Please know that you do not have to be an Episcopalian to receive Communion. Receive the Bread in the palm of your hand and the Wine either by drinking from the cup or by intinction, touching the Bread to the Wine. Gluten-free Bread is available; simply ask. If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please tell an usher.

The People stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER


Celebrant Let us pray.

Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands; the word of life in whom our joy is complete: send us out to declare your truth, your unshakable faith in the world you love. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the living God remove the suffocating shroud that lies upon our world; may the risen Savior draw the sting of death, bringing all to life in him; may the flowing Spirit set us and all creation free and seal our hearts with faith; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with you this night and always. **Amen.**

HYMN



1. Christ be near at ei - ther hand,
2. Christ be in my heart and mind,
3. Christ my life and on - ly way,

Christ be - hind, be - fore me stand,
Christ with - in my soul en - shrined,
Christ my lan - tern night and day,

Christ with me wher' - e'er I go,
Christ con - trol my way - ward heart,
Christ be my un - chang - ing friend,

Christ a - round, a - bove, be - low.
Christ a - bide and ne'er - de - part.
Guide and Shep - herd to the end.

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THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Christ has conquered sin and death. The power of love has overcome the darkness. Let us go forth in the light and life of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING MUSIC

TRADITIONAL IRISH TUNE

Welcome

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Announcements

❖ TODAY

The Dean's Hour: Living Faithfully in a Complex Community • This morning the Dean's Hour continued its April conversations on Living Faithfully in a Complex Community with Constance and Dain Perry as part of our Traces of the Trade series.

Día Mundial del Niño/Children's Day • Latino Ministry will be celebrating Día Mundial del Niño/Children's Day today during the 1 p.m. service and during the reception in Reynolds Hall. All are invited to join in the celebration.

❖ **Neighborhood Gatherings Have Sprung Up** • This spring Christ Church Cathedral is hosting a series of neighborhood get-togethers — and you're invited. It's a relaxed evening from 6-7:30 p.m. to meet new faces, catch up with old friends, and just enjoy being together outside of Sunday. There are two more evenings to choose from: Wednesday, May 6 (Southwest Houston) and Monday, May 18 (Southwest area). Spots are limited, so RSVP soon. Hosts and RSVP info at: christchurchcathedral.org/announcements.

❖ **May Fete is coming — Volunteer With Us** • Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3, to celebrate one of the oldest, and most beloved, Cathedral traditions. Gather at Christ Church for a Sunday filled with special worship, favorite foods, fun games, and the crowning of the May Fete King and Queen. To volunteer, register at: christchurchcathedral.org/announcements.

❖ **News for Children & Families and Youth** • Sunday School for children and youth runs from September through April during the 10 o'clock hour, wrapping up with May Fete — our joyful annual celebration on the first Sunday in May. Stay connected by signing up for the Cathedral Families and/or Treehouse newsletters to learn about summer offerings like Art Space for All (Sundays at 10 a.m. in Reynolds Hall), Summer Shade (youth activities), and Movable Feast (family, food, and fun in June and July!).

❖ **20s & 30s Cookout** • Cathedral young adults (in their 20s & 30s) are invited to hotdogs and hangs on Saturday, May 9, from 2-5 p.m. No cost to attend, but please plan to bring drinks and/or cookout-worthy sides and snacks to share. Hosted by Eliza Poggi. To receive the address, RSVP by Friday, May 8 at: christchurchcathedral.org/announcements.

❖ **Historic Tour of Texas Plantations** • You're invited to experience 19th century Texas life at the Levi Jordan and Varner-Hogg Plantations in Brazoria County on Saturday, May 16. Of special focus will be the enslaved quarters and work sites at the Levi Jordan Plantation which are currently undergoing archeological exploration. Adult admission is \$12 and covers entrance to both sites and a tour of Levi Jordan. For further information, and to register by May 3, visit: christchurchcathedral.org/announcements.