The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
Centered in God, Focused on Others
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The Reverend Kevin Holland Sparrow, Rector
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Good Morning and Welcome to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church here in Hanover! We are glad you are with joining us online this morning. We pray that worshipping with us will give you a sense of fellowship with Christ and with us as God’s people. If you would like more information about St. Andrew’s, please email office@standrewshanover.org

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant

Al-le-lu-ia. Christ is ris-en.

People

The Lord is risen indeed. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAISE HYMN #412

Earth and all stars (v. 1-3)

1 Earth and all stars, loud rushing planets, sing to the
2 Hail, wind, and rain, loud blowing snowstorms, sing to the
3 Trum-pet and pipes, loud clashing cymbals, sing to the
4 En-gines and steel, loud pounding hammers, sing to the
5 Class-rooms and labs, loud boiling test tubes, sing to the
6 Know-ledge and truth, loud sound-ing wis-dom, sing to the

1 Lord________ a new song! O vic-to-ry,
2 Lord________ a new song! Flow-ers and treec,s,
3 Lord________ a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre,
4 Lord________ a new song! Lime-stone and beams,
5 Lord________ a new song! Ath-lete and band,
6 Lord________ a new song! Daugh-ter and son,

1 loud shout-ing ar-my, sing to the Lord_______ a new song!
2 loud rus-tling dry leaves, sing to the Lord_______ a new song!
3 loud hum-ming cel-los, sing to the Lord_______ a new song!
4 loud build-ing work-ers, sing to the Lord_______ a new song!
5 loud cheer-ing peo-ple, sing to the Lord_______ a new song!
6 loud pray-ing mem-bers, sing to the Lord_______ a new song!
The people respond with the words in *bold italics*.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**  
BCP p. 225

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding:  
Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**THE LESSONS**

First Reading: *Acts 10:44-48*  
*A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: *Psalm 98*  
*Read responsively by whole verse.*

Sing to the *LORD* a new song, *

for he has done marvelous things.

*With his right hand and his holy arm* *

*has he won for himself the victory.*

The *LORD* has made known his victory; *

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

*He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,* *

*and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.*

Shout with joy to the *LORD*, all you lands; *

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

*Sing to the *LORD* with the harp,* *

*with the harp and the voice of song.*

The people respond with the words in *bold italics.*
With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

*Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

*In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6
A Reading from the First letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation MHSO #20
Celtic Alleluia (O'Carroll/Walker)

Gospel: John 15:9-17
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I
have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Gospel Acclamation (repeat 1 x)

*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.

The people respond with the words in *bold italics.*
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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join in the Easter alleluias as we offer our prayers to the Risen One, responding to each petition by saying, “Hear us, O risen Christ.”

That we may reflect Jesus’ sacrificial love, and reveal his generosity through our giving to the relief of the orphan and widow, the abused and unemployed, the homeless and working poor, the wealthy who hunger for family and friends, and all who walk in the shadows of hope; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For the strength to obey God’s commandments, and to receive the strong voices to proclaim our marvelous faith; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For our Joe, our President, Charlie our Governor, and all who exercise civil authority in nations and local governments, that truth and integrity may prevail in all their deliberations; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

That we will honor Jesus’ friendship through our willingness to receive all that he has taught, and to take seriously his call to learn all that the Father has given to him; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Alan and Gayle our bishops, that they may show forth your love in their lives and ministry; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For those on our parish prayer list and those we name now, either silently or aloud; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

That God’s comfort may console those who have lost loved ones, and resurrect all who have departed this life in the faith of the resurrection, remembering today Sophy Hansen, and those we name now, either silently or aloud; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For those on our diocesan prayer list: St. Mark’s Chapel, St. Mark’s School, Southborough; St. Elizabeth’s Church, Sudbury; St. Peter’s Church, Weston; The Ministry of the Diocesan Altar Guild and all Altar Guilds, that they may be strengthened and empowered in their various ministries, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.
Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offertory Anthem

**God of Eve and God of Mary**

1. God of Eve and God of Mary, God of love and mother earth,
2. As you came to earth in Jesus, So you come to us today,
3. Thank you, that the Church, our Mother, Gives us bread and fills our cup,
4. Thank you for belonging shelter, Bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
5. God of Eve and God of Mary, Christ our brother, human son.

1. Thank you for the ones who with us Shared their life and gave us birth.
2. You are present in the caring That prepares us for life’s way.
3. And the comfort of the Spirit Warms our hearts and lifts us up.
4. And for those who have no children, Yet are parents under God.
5. Spirit, caring like a mother, Take our love and make us one.

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Music: STUTTGART; Christian F. Witt’s Psalmodia Sacra, Gothia, 1715; adapt. and keyboard acc. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Eucharistic Prayer B

**BCP p. 367**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

The people respond with the words in **bold italics**.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us 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:

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

*It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full,

Full of your glory.

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8
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.”

The people respond with the words in **bold italics**.
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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Andrew, 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 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,*

*forever and ever. Amen.*

*The Breaking of the Bread*
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
For those not able to receive the Blessed Sacrament this morning, I invite you to join with me in this prayer for a spiritual Communion.

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day. I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by our life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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

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.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

The people respond with the words in bold italics.
**CLOSING HYMN #412**

1. Earth and all stars, loud rushing planets, sing to the
2. Hail, wind, and rain, loud blowing snow-storms, sing to the
3. Trumpet and pipes, loud clashing cymbals, sing to the
4. Engines and steel, loud pounding hammers, sing to the
5. Class-rooms and labs, loud boiling test-tubes, sing to the
6. Knowledge and truth, loud sounding wisdom, sing to the

**DISMISSAL #S175A**

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.
This service has been conducted in accordance with the diocesan guidelines for worship with careful attention to social distancing. We look forward to the time when we all can come together for worship.

Special thanks to our *schola cantorum* (small choir) for their singing and reading this morning.

**PRAYER LIST** - If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List, please email or call the office. Please remember to keep these people in your daily prayers:

Carroll & Sue, Claire & Don, Tracey, Zack, Nancy, Bev, Beth, Steven, Susan, Hawk & Matthew, Karen, Erin Kate, Leah, Sophia, James & Judith, Lula Mae, AJ, Florence, Jamie, Janet M., Gayle, Tim, Boppy, Delores, Ben, the Brennan Family, Sarah, Julie, Jackson, Eileen & Larry, Gerry, Michele, Ken & Barbie, Gary, Phyllis, Meredith, the Howe family, Fr. Kevin, Frank, Susan, Joan, Nancy, Bob, Janet G., MaryAlice, Jackie, Celia, Kevin F., Barbara, Lori, Fr. John, Jennifer, Priscilla, Bonnie, Robert, Maggie, Daron, Judy, Kurt, and Debbie.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May 3, 2021

Dear St. Andrew’s Family,

There is no easy way to put it: the past year has been one of the most challenging in our parish’s history. Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to worship in person since March of 2020 except for a brief return to in-person services last fall. While we have continued our community through online worship on Facebook Live, I know that for many of us it just isn’t the same. We miss our friends, being in our sacred space, worship, and receiving Holy Communion.

The Vestry and I are pleased to announce that we will be returning to in-person worship beginning on May 16th.

As you may recall, we formed a “regathering committee” last summer to help us prepare for our return. We completed an extensive checklist from the Diocese, and our worship spaces and plans were approved by a diocesan-appointed “regathering shepherd.” While our in-person worship had to be suspended due to the second wave of Covid-19 in Massachusetts; due to increased vaccinations and a reduced infection rate, we are now in a place to begin again. We will continue to offer our services online in “hybrid worship” for those who are unable or uncomfortable with worshipping in person.

The Diocese has produced extensive guidelines for in-person worship which are more stringent than those of the Commonwealth. For the time being, we will be worshipping outdoors in our garden, weather permitting. (In the event of rain, we can worship inside the church as we have approval for indoor worship.) We will reassess the situation on an ongoing basis.
To attend, please reserve a space by emailing office@standrewshanover.org or by calling (781) 826-2062. Social distancing guidelines will apply and face-coverings are required while on church grounds. Congregational singing is not yet permitted, but we will have our schola and Sean to provide music for our services. At Communion we will be distributing only the consecrated bread. The congregation is encouraged to bring their own chairs for the lawn. When the Diocese relaxes these guidelines, we will let everyone know.

We want to thank you for your patience during this time. As always, the safety and health of our members is paramount.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at clergy@standrewshanover.org or speak with a member of the Vestry.

We look forward to seeing you: either in-person or online—on May 16th.

Easter Blessings,

The Rev. Kevin Holland Sparrow, Rector
The St. Andrew’s Vestry
The St. Andrew’s Regathering Committee