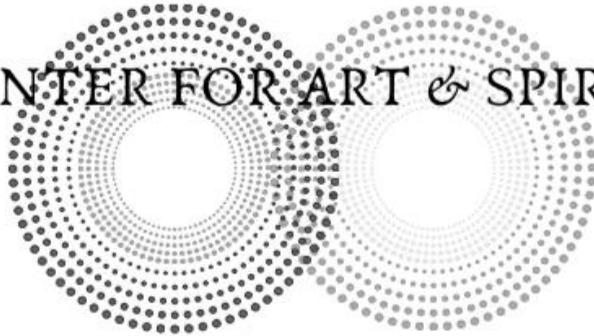


ST. GEORGE'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CENTER FOR ART & SPIRIT



*Devoted to justice,  
creativity, & community*



*since 1950*

The Sunday of the Passion  
Palm Sunday

St. George's Episcopal Church  
1 School Road  
Asheville, North Carolina  
[www.stgeorgeswavl.org](http://www.stgeorgeswavl.org)

## ***Welcome!***

*St. George's has deep roots in West Asheville. We are an inclusive, queer-affirming, diverse community committed to working for peace, love, & justice.*

*Congregational responses are in bold. You'll find more notes about the service (including COVID protocols, Communion, and families with young children) at the end of the bulletin. The Collect of the Day, the Lessons, and the Gospel change each week and can be found in your bulletin insert. If joining online, they can be found at [lectionarypage.net](http://lectionarypage.net).*

*Wherever you are in life's journey, you are welcome here.  
May you feel God's love & grace in this place!*

# Liturgy of the Palms

*The congregation will gather in the parking lot  
at the bottom of the green ramp.  
Palms will be distributed before the service.*

## Opening Hymn

*I'm so glad you're here*

*adapted from the song "So glad I'm here" by Elizabeth Mitchell*

### ***All sing:***

- 1) I'm so glad you're here (x3)  
...here today  
I'm so glad you're here (x3)  
...here today
- 2) Love brought us here (x3)  
...here today  
Love brought us here (x3)  
...here today
- 3) Bless'ed be God (x3)  
...here today  
Bless'ed be God (x3)  
...here today
- 4) I'm so glad we're here (x3)  
...here today  
I'm so glad we're here (x3)  
...here today

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Gospel

*Luke 19:29-40*

When [Jesus] had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

## The Procession

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.

**People:** In the name of Christ. Amen.

*All sing:*

*You shall go out with joy (from Isaiah 55:12)*

*See bulletin insert.*

*We will process while singing into the Sanctuary.*

*Please make your way to your seats and remain standing as you are able.*

Celebrant: May God be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant: Blessed be the God of our salvation:

**People** Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## First Lesson

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Lesson

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.*

Deacon The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

## Sermon

## Prayers of the People for the Lenten Season\*

Leader:

For the darkness of waiting;  
Of not knowing what is to come;  
Of staying ready, and quiet, and attentive –  
We praise you, O God

**All: For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of staying silent,  
For the terror of having nothing to say;  
And for the greater terror of needing to say nothing –  
We praise you, O God

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of loving,  
In which it is safe to surrender,  
To let go of our self-protection,  
And to stop holding back our desire –  
We praise you, O God

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of choosing,  
When you give us the moment to speak, and act, and change,  
And we cannot know what we have set in motion,  
But we still have to take the risk -  
We praise you, O God

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of hoping  
In a world which longs for you.  
For the wrestling and the laboring of all creation.  
For wholeness and justice and freedom –  
We praise you, O God

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of changing,  
In a world, a country, a church  
Where fear and possibility dance together –  
We praise you, O God

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of daring,  
As we strive to open hearts, and minds, and doors  
Held shut by fear and anger –  
We praise you, O God

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of your compassionate presence  
With those who long for inclusion, shelter, food, and safety; With those  
who have died and those who grieve;  
With those who are sick, in prison, or suffering from any need or pain;  
With those we now name silently or aloud

*(If joining online, we invite you to post your comments in the "chat")*

We praise you, O God

**For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

*\*From All Desires Known by Jane Morley, adapted by members Kelsey Davis and Rev.  
Barbara Petersen*

## **The Confessions and Absolution**

*Following a period of silence*

**All: God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing  
your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

**Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins  
through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you in eternal life.  
Amen.**

## The Peace

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

*Please pass the peace to one another from a safe distance.  
If online, please send us some peace via the "chat" function-*

## Announcements

## Offertory

*Please give as you are able as the offertory plate is passed. You can also give to St. George's by clicking on the donate button on the website or sending donations to 1 School Road, Asheville, NC 28806*

# The Holy Communion

## Offertory Hymn

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer II*

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.**

*Celebrant continues*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

**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.**

*Priest continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat:

This is my Body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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 say*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

**All: AMEN!**

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

**Our Father\* in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*\*Please feel free to substitute "Mother" or "Parent" as the Spirit moves*

## **The Breaking of Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Priest      The Gifts of God for you the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*If joining online, please take a moment to share in Christ's presence, whether through consuming unconsecrated bread and wine or juice, consecrated bread, wine, or juice, or through inwardly acknowledging Christ's life in you. Customary words when given are "The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven." ["Amen.]" "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." ["Amen.]"*

## **Prayer for those Not Receiving**

Deacon: In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we offer praise and thanksgiving. Even if we do not receive you today in the form of the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, O Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

*All: Amen.*

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

Priest: Let us pray.

*All: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## **Blessing**

Priest: May the blessing of God, Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## **Dismissal**

*Response: Thanks be to God!*

## **Closing Hymn**

# St. George's Episcopal Church

1 School Road, Asheville, NC 28806

Tel. 828-258-0211



Website: [stgeorgeswavl.org](http://stgeorgeswavl.org)

[www.facebook.com/stgwestavl/](http://www.facebook.com/stgwestavl/)

YouTube Channel: St. George's Episcopal West Asheville

Email: [stgeorgeoffice28806@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeoffice28806@gmail.com)

-Rev. Erin Maxfield-Steele, *Priest-in-Charge*

-Rev. Dn. Michael Ashmore, *Deacon*

-Sarah Fulton, *Parish Administrator*

-Luke Shaver, *Parish Musician*

-Andy Burke, *Senior Warden*



# ***A warm welcome to newcomers!***

*We're glad you're here!*

*Some notes about the service*

~ **Covid Precautions:** Due to the pandemic, please wear a mask whenever you are in the building. We highly recommend taking a home test before attending church. Our services are held on-line and in person. Please maintain social distancing.

~ **We are** a small church with deep roots. We welcome people of all walks of life. We strive to love & honor one another deeply & authentically, to seek justice & peace in our community, & to extend radical love & hospitality—truly welcoming all.

~ **Online worship:** due to Coronavirus, we know some of you will not be comfortable joining us in person. Please join us on Facebook for our live service each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. This live-streamed service will offer closed captioning.

~ **Families with young children:** kids are welcome to move around in the sanctuary, make noise & explore. There are ways to help out: lighting candles, ringing the bell, reading, or helping with the offering. Let the priest or deacon know if a little one would like to help! Kids have a corner of the sanctuary designed with them in mind & they may use the peace garden & playground outside if supervised by a family member. There is a changing table in the hallway bathroom.

~ **The liturgy** (meaning worship structure & the words we use) comes from *The Book of Common Prayer*, *Enriching Our Worship*, & *The New Zealand Book of Common Prayer (He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa)*. We intentionally use expansive language for God & people when possible, meaning that we do not only refer to God as 'he' or to people as 'men.' Other than the hymns, everything the congregations says & sings is in the bulletin in bold.

~ **Visitors**, please email us your information at [stgeorgeoffice28806@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeoffice28806@gmail.com), let us know a little about you, if you'd like to be on our email list, and if you'd appreciate a call from our priest. Thanks!

~ **Communion:** we share the Eucharist weekly. All are welcome to receive. We believe that Jesus is present in the bread & wine that have been blessed, broken, & shared. No matter what, we hope you can break bread together in remembrance of all God has done for you & in hope that through it you will be renewed & strengthened in faith & service.