



# Sunday, May 10, 2026

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

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Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

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### Blessing of the Water

*From the New Zealand Prayer Book*

*Reader*        We thank you God for your love in all creation,  
                      especially for your gift of water  
                      to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant  
with your people Israel;  
through the Red Sea waters  
you led them to freedom in the promised land.  
In the waters of the Jordan  
your Son was baptised by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through the deep waters of death  
Jesus fulfilled his baptism.  
He died to set us free  
and was raised to be exalted Lord of all.  
It is Christ who baptises with the Holy Spirit  
and with fire.

*All*                **Amen. Come Holy Spirit.**

*Celebrant* We thank you that through the waters of baptism  
you cleanse us,  
renew us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life.

In the new covenant  
we are made members of your Church  
and share in your eternal kingdom.

Through your Holy Spirit,  
fulfil once more your promises  
in this water of rebirth,  
set apart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour,  
power and might,  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen!**

## Opening Acclamation

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

# Alleluia! sing to Jesus

*The Hymnal 1982, #460*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the  
 \*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the  
 \*5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the

1 scap - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the  
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is  
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the  
 4 Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of  
 5 scap - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the  
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the  
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -  
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -  
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a  
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty  
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,  
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our  
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery  
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his  
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the  
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and  
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.  
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - rist - ic feast.  
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

## The Collect for Purity

*Celebrant* 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**

## Kyrie Eleison

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.  
*People* **Christ, have mercy.**  
*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.

## The Collect

*Celebrant* 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.**

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## Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ Partnership in the Gospel

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### The Gospel

**Luke 9:46-48** ~ NRSVUE

*Deacon*            The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

An argument arose among them concerning which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me, for the least among all of you is the greatest."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of Christ.

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

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*Quiet Reflection on the Reading*

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### The Lesson

**Philippians 1:1-18a**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the progress of the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ, and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice,

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*Quiet Reflection on the Reading*

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## Lectionary Discussion

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*What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?*

*During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.*

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## The Nicene Creed

*People*

**We believe –**

**In the One God:**

**Source of all,**

**ruler of all,**

**maker of heaven and earth:**

**of all things seen or unseen.**

**And in one Lord:**

**Jesus of Nazareth,**

**Christ the Messiah,**

**the only-born Word of God;**

**eternally issued of that of the One:**

**God of God, light of light, true God of true God;**

**issued, not made:**

**the same being as the One;**

and through whom all things are made;  
That for us mortals  
and for our salvation  
came down from heaven;  
and was made flesh  
of the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary;  
and became human;  
Was also crucified, for our sake,  
under the reign of Pontius Pilate:  
and suffered, and was buried;  
and arose on the third day,  
in accordance with the scriptures,  
and went back up into heaven;  
and sits in power beside the One:  
and shall come again, in glory,  
to judge those living and dead;  
and whose presence shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Spirit:  
the Holy,  
the Lord,  
and the lifegiving;  
that pours forth of that of the One:  
that with One and Word together  
we worship and glorify as God;  
that speaks in the prophets.  
In one holy, universal, and missionary church:  
we accept one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;  
we await the raising of the dead,  
and the life of the age soon to come.  
Amen.

## Prayers of the People

*Celebrant* In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Alayna, Anthony, Billy, Chris, Gregory, Kerry, Marie, Maureen, and Nikki.

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*You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.*

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*You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said.*

This is my prayer.

**This is our prayer.**

*After all prayers have been shared.*

*Celebrant* God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

*A moment of silence for private prayer.*

*All* **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,**

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

## Absolution

*Celebrant* 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

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## Announcements

*During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.*

## The Offering

*Celebrant* Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*You are invited to share your gifts, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.*

## Music for Preparation

### Give thanks for life

*Wonder Love and Praise, #775*

1. Give thanks for life, the meas - ure of our days,  
2. Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
3. And for our own, our liv - ing and our dead,  
4. Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Give thanks for life". It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is written on two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are provided below the vocal line, with four verses. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style.

mor - tal, we pass through beau - ty that de - cays, yet  
 caught from the Christ flame burst - ing through the night, who  
 thanks for the love by which our life is fed, a  
 ly - ing in dark - ness does its life re - tain, in

sing to God our hope, our love, our - praise, )  
 touched the truth, who burned for what is right, ) Al -  
 love not changed by time or death or dread, )  
 res - ur - rec - tion to grow green a - gain. )

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931). Music: *Sine nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); arr. Robert Roth (b. 1928).

## The Presentation of Our Offerings to God

*Celebrant*

All things come of Thee O Lord,

*People*

**And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

# The Holy Communion

*From The Anglican Church of Australia (2009)*

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*      O God, eternal Wisdom,  
all you have made is beautiful and good.  
We thank you for darkness and light,  
for this earth and for our bodies,  
for growth and change  
and all that lies beyond our knowledge and imagination.

In every generation you befriend your people.  
You gave us your holy Law, sent the prophets,  
and called us back to the truth whenever we turned away.

You were vindicated in your servant Jesus  
who came with forgiveness, feasting, and stories of your grace.  
Though we rejected him,  
death on a cross could not quench the fire of his love.  
You raised him up for us,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
to build a new community of hope  
where all are honoured as Christ's equal friends.  
And so we praise you  
with Mary, mother of the living Word,  
and with all your faithful friends,  
as we join the angels' song:

*People*          **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.**

*Celebrant*

God of the feast, your household is hungry  
for the bread of heaven and the cup of life.  
Send your Spirit on us and on our celebration,  
so that we may eat at this table and be satisfied  
with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

On the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with the people he loved.  
He took the bread, gave you thanks,  
broke it to share with them, and said:  
"Take and eat this: it is my body."

Then he took a cup of wine.  
Again he thanked you and told them:  
"Drink this, all of you: it is my blood,  
shed for you and for many  
so that sins may be forgiven.  
Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me."

So we delight to remember Jesus:  
the faithfulness of his life,  
the victory of his cross,  
the glory of his resurrection,  
the joy of the Holy Spirit poured out for the Church.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

*People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant*

O God, holy Wisdom, merciful and generous,  
accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.  
Make us good stewards of creation,  
with justice in our hearts,

courage in our actions  
and power in our speech  
to bear witness to the truth.  
Protect us with your glory,  
unite your church in loyalty and love,  
and bring us home with all your saints to feast with you for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
and in the Spirit's grace,  
with heart and soul and mind and strength  
we love and worship you alone, O God,  
for ever and ever.

*People*        **Amen.**

*Celebrant*     As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

*Celebrant and People*

**Our Lord that is in heaven:  
blessed be your name.  
Your dominion come:  
your will be done  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our next day's bread:  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And leave us not prey to temptation:  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the dominion: the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread And The Communion

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*     As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

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*We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.*

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## Taize & Contemplation ~ Surrexit Christus

♩ = 120

D A/C# Bm F#m G F#m7 F#m6 Em7 A

*p* *f*

O Sur-re-xit Chri-stus, al-le-lu-ia!  
The Lord is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

*p* *f*

D A/C# Bm F#m G A/G D/F# Em7 A D

*p* *f*

O Can-ta-te Do-mi-no, al-le-lu-ia!  
Sing out and praise the Lord, al-le-lu-ia!

*p* *f*

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

We thank you, God,

for all the blessings of this table:  
for the life-giving story, the living bread  
and the wine of new creation.

*People*            **Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,  
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers  
with creative words  
and compassionate service,  
walking the way of Christ.**

*Celebrant*        God who has called you is faithful.  
Go into the world with joy,  
forgive generously,  
love extravagantly,  
live abundantly.

## The Blessing

*Celebrant*        Beloved, remember, you are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.  
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.  
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,  
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Prayer for Our Shared Meal

*Deacon*            Bless the food that you have made, and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

*Deacon*            Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia !

*People*            **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia !**

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*You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.*

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We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

### **The Beloved Community at The Trees**

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