

**Christ Episcopal Church
Welcomes All
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I
April 28, 2024
8:00 AM**



As Christ does, we will

302-734-5731

E-mail: office@christchurchdover.org

www.christchurchdover.church for more information

*P.O. Box 1374 (South State and Water Streets)
Dover, Delaware 19903*

WELCOME

Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here at Christ Church, as you are, to receive the blessings of God so freely given, of new and unending life in Christ. We are thankful that you are here today and we invite you to return often.

Children of all ages are welcome at Christ Church.

**For more information, please contact the church office
at 302-734-5731, or office@christchurchdover.org.**

**Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday – 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**To request prayer for yourself or someone else, please contact the
parish office at office@christchurchdover.org or 302-734-5731.**

**To request private prayers by the Daughters of the King, please contact
Ann Hadaway at 302-734-0868.**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 – 8:00 AM
Holy Eucharist

Acclamation & Collect for Purity

BCP page 323

The Gloria

page 324

Collect of 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.*

First Reading

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 (*read responsively*)

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

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

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

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

Second Reading

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.

The Holy 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. Kije Mugisha Rwamasirabo

Nicene Creed	Stand as able	page 326
Prayers of the People, Form II		page 385
Prayer for the Parish		page 818

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Special Thanksgivings

Offertory

Eucharistic Prayer II

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The Lord's Prayer

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The Fraction Anthem

page 337

The Bread and Cup are given to the people.

- * *As the Usher invites you, please move toward the center of the Communion Rail.*
- * *You may consume the bread and then drink from the cup, tipping the bottom slightly away from you to assist the chalice bearer; you may dip the bread into the wine, being careful to not place your fingers in the wine; or you may cross your arms in front of you to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine.*
- * *If you prefer a blessing rather than the bread and wine, simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest approaches.*
- * *Once the chalice bearer has returned to the outside of the Communion Rail, that person may stand, and those at the rail follow back to their seats.*
- * *If you are unable to come to the Communion Rail, but would like to receive, please let an usher know; the ministers will gladly come to you.*
- * *Gluten Free is Available.*

Post Communion Prayer *Please stand as able*

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Dismissal – People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Worship has ended. The Service begins.

**Our thanks to The Rev. Kije Mugisha Rwamasirabo
for serving today**

**Please join the Vestry for a Town Hall meeting after this
service in the Parish Hall.**

**The altar flowers are given in memory of Myrtle Wright and to
celebrate the 90th birthday of Charles Wright**

PREPARE YOUR HEART AND MIND BY READING AHEAD

The readings for May 5 are Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6 and John 15: 9-17.

Our Worship

Sunday Services at 8 A.M. and 10 A.M. (Eucharist)
Wednesdays at 12:10 P.M. (Healing and Eucharist)

Our Staff

The Ven. Patricia Malcolm, Archdeacon
Assistant Clergy:
The Rev. Jim Hawkins
The Rev. Dennis Lloyd
Mrs. Mariann Marston, Administrative Assistant
mmarston@christchurchdover.org
Mr. Alexander Holloman, Sexton

Wardens & Vestry

2025: Celeste Landon, *Senior Warden*, Sherry Reese, *Junior Warden*,
Marcia Waters, *Clerk*, Mike Quinn, George Dawson,
2026: Robert Marston, Judy Kirch, Verna Thompson, Jim McCarthy
2027: Genevieve Haller, Migdalia Hernandez, Ingrid Alleyne-Green
Jim Pappas, *Treasurer*

Website:

www.ChristChurchDover.org

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