

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Holy Eucharist and the Witnessing and Blessing
of a Marriage - A Renewal of Vows for Chris & Jeanne
Mason**

April 28, 2024

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space
Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit



PRELUDE *Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 13 Pathetique*
Beethoven

A bell rings three times; the people stand

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN #577 *Here In Christ We Gather*

Refrain: *God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there.*

Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling.

Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting.

Let us fear and love him, holy God eternal.

Loving him, let each love Christ in one another. **Refrain**

When we Christians gather, members of one Body,
let there be in us no discord but one spirit.

Banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel.

Christ, our God, be always present here among us. **Refrain**

Grant us love's fulfillment, joy with all the blessed,
when we see your face, O Savior, in its glory.

Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,

be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises. **Refrain**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Dear friends in Christ, in the name of God and the Church we have come together today with Chris and Jeanne Mason to witness the renewal of their solemn marriage vows. Forsaking all others, they will renew their covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live.

SONG OF PRAISE #205 *Good Christians all, rejoice and sing*

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today!

Sing songs of praise along his way;

let all the earth rejoice and say:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your Name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To God the Father, God the Son,
to God the Spirit, always One,
we sing for life in us begun:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon Jeanne and Chris, who come to renew their promises to each other, and grant them your grace, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may be a witness to your love and forgiveness, and that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:24-30

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

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

²⁵**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: ***
“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷**For kingship belongs to the LORD; ***
he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹**My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; ***
they shall be known as the LORD’s for ever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the first letter of John.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *GTG 250 In the Bulb There is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery;
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity:
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

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

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

[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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Tracey Kelly

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.

THE WITNESSING OF THE VOWS AND THE BLESSING OF THE COVENANT

Chris and Jeanne, you have come before God and the Church to exchange and renew the promises you made when you bound yourselves to each other in holy matrimony.

Celebrant Chris, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to Jeanne?

Answer I do.

Celebrant Will you continue to live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Jeanne, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to Chris?

Answer I do.

Celebrant Will you continue to live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will, with God's help.

The congregation stands, the couple faces the People, and the Celebrant addresses them, saying

Celebrant Will all of you gathered to witness these vows do all in your power to uphold and honor this couple in the covenant they make?

People We will.

Celebrant Will you pray for them, especially in times of trouble, and celebrate with them in times of joy?

People We will.

If the two have previously given and worn rings as a symbol of their commitment, the rings may be blessed on the hands of the couple, the Celebrant saying

Let us pray.

By the rings which they have worn, faithful God, Chris and Jeanne have shown to one another and the world their love and faithfulness. Bless now these rings, that from this day forward they may be signs of the vows Chris and Jeanne have exchanged in your presence and in the communion of your Church, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant joins the right hands of the husband and wife and says

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God the Father, who ordained that it is good for two people to live in the covenant of marriage, keep you one. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who adorned this manner of life by his first miracle, at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, be present with you always. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who has given you the will to persevere in your love and in your covenant with each other, strengthen your bond. **Amen.**

And may God the Holy Trinity, the source of all unity, bless you this day and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Then let us pray for Chris and Jeanne in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

Leader For Chris and Jeanne, seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For friends to support them and communities to enfold them; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For peace in their home and love in their family; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For the honesty to acknowledge when they hurt each other, and the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For the outpouring of your love through their work and witness; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.; Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them

the joy of your salvation.;
Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.;
Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For the strength to keep the vows each of us has made;
Loving God,

People Hear our prayer.

Celebrant Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we bring before you for Chris and Jeanne, who seek your blessing this day. Strengthen them as they share in the saving work of Jesus, and bring about for them and for all you have created the fullness of life he promised, who now lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

GATHERING *GTG #413 Come Into God's Presence*

The people return to their seats to gather for the Liturgy of the Table

Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."

Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."

Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY *Christ is the Vine*

Marilyn and James Biery

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.**

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:

SANCTUS S 128 *Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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."

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 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

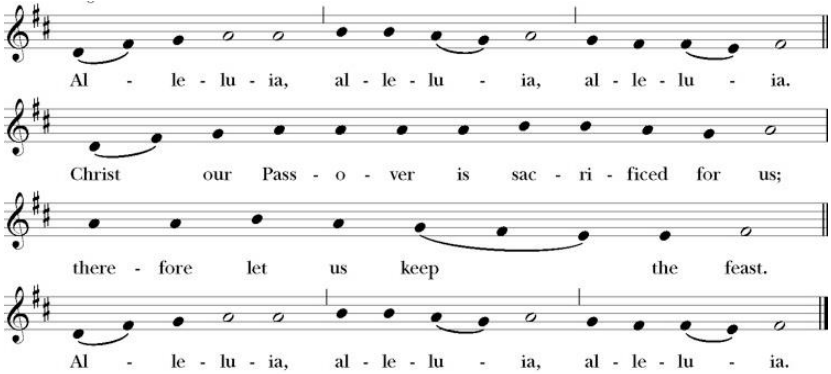
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM S 154 *Christ our Passover*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN #487 *Come My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath;

such a truth as ends all strife;

such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast;

such a feast as mends in length;

such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

such a joy as none can move;

such a love as none can part;

such a heart as joys in love.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our strength and joy, we thank you for the communion of our life together, for the example of holy love that you give us in Chris and Jeanne, and for the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that it may renew our hope and nourish us for the work you set before us to witness to the presence of Christ in the world, through the power of your Spirit, and to the glory of your Name. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN #379 *God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him*

God is Love, let heaven adore him;
God is Love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him
and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heaven above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and Love enfolds us,
all the world in one embrace:
with unfailing grasp God holds us,
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness
sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving-kindness
guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Yoga with Kelly, Friday, May 10, 17, 24, and 31, 10:00 am
Celebration of a New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Tracey Kelly as Rector by Bishop Jose McLoughlin, Wed. May 1, 6:00 pm
Mills River Day Sat. May 4, 11 am-5 pm
Women's Group ,Sat. May 11, 10 am
Vestry Meeting, Sun., May 12, 12:15 pm
Outreach Committee, Tues., May 14, 4 pm
Grill and Chill, Thurs., May 16, 6 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

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