

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 2, 2021

8:00AM

Worship in a Season of Pandemic

Guidelines and Directives

April 2021

For everyone's safety, all in attendance for worship at St. Mary of the Hills must covenant to the following guidelines and directives:

+ Attendance at any indoor service is limited to thirty percent of total capacity (six feet of social distancing can be maintained), as directed by the Bishop of Western North Carolina's directives (March 20, 2021).

+ Prior to arrival, all attending should perform a self-check of symptoms and temperature. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, who might have been in contact with someone who has the virus, or who is experiencing a temperature higher than 100.0 (F), should not attend.

+ Enter through the Chestnut Street door; masks, hand sanitizer, and additional instructions for seating will be provided in the Foyer. Exit through the Main Street door.

+ All in attendance must wear a facial mask, that covers both mouth and nose completely, at all times. Children under the age of two are exempted from this requirement (per CDC guidelines). Please bring your own mask; if you do not have a mask, one will be provided.

+ A minimum of six feet of physical distance must be maintained at all times by individuals who do not share the same household. Pews are marked to ensure appropriate distancing is maintained between households.

+ If singing takes place in the service, all singers must be masked for the entire service, including while singing. Windows will be opened for additional ventilation.

+ The Peace may be exchanged only through gestures that do not require movement or touching those outside one's own household. Waving or bowing to one another are most appropriate.

+ The celebrant will administer communion in the aisle using pincers (tongs) to prevent close contact. Please come forward, one pew at a time, to receive the consecrated host in the hand and return to your pew before removing masks to consume the bread.

+ Each pew should exit the Church one at a time at the conclusion of the liturgy, allowing those closest should exit first. For the safety of the whole community, please do not linger in the Church following the service.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

8:00 AM

A prayerful silence precedes the service.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity and the people respond, Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

THE FIRST LESSON

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.

The Psalm is said responsively by verse.

Deus, Deus meus

- 24 My 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!"
- 26 All 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.
- 28 To 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.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

THE SECOND LESSON

First 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.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Gospeler 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."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

from *Common Worship*

The Leader and People pray responsively.

In joy and hope let us pray to our God.

A period of silence follows.

That our risen Saviour may fill us and the whole Church with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them in their affliction.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The people add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and 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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

After breaking the consecrated bread, the Celebrant says,

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served from the aisle, at the bottom of the chancel steps; follow the directions of the acolyte to come forward, one pew at a time, maintaining safe distance from one another. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. The celebrant will use pincers (tongs) to administer communion to prevent close contact. Please receive the consecrated host in your hand and return to your seat before removing masks to consume the bread. Communion will be administered in one kind, bread, only. Anglican teaching has long upheld that receiving communion in one kind (only bread or only wine) is to have received the sacrament in its entirety. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**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.**

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant offers a blessing over the assembly, and the people respond, **Amen.***

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Please Pray for the Following in Your Daily Prayers

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew our rector, Sam and Gary our assisting clergy, for our Vestry and staff, for all bishops and ministers, and for all God's people throughout the world.

For Joseph, our President, Roy, our Governor, those who hold elected office, and all those in positions of public trust.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For healing: For healing: Sara, Georgina, Libba, Betty, Libby, Marion T., Cris, Susie, Gary, Amy Anderson, the Anderson family, Greg Puhl, Pat, Richard, Ray Williams, Michael Silverman, Lora, Glenn, John, Doug, Fred, June Rose, Graeme, Sterling, Dean Hamric, Lisa Kaufmann, Bill Elder, Jr., Terry

****(Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks, unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.)****

In thanksgiving for the birth of: David Alexander Hege, son of Andrew and Amanda Hege, and Andrew Bullard MacMartin, grandson of Bill and Jorgann Rogers

For those who have died: Ronnie, Wes Carter, Alex Hallmark, Mallory Goewey, The Rev. Jack Smith, Nancy, Kelly Coston, Jayne

For safe pregnancy and delivery for: Caroline, Anna

For those celebrating birthdays this week:

5/03 George Ball

5/04 Jackie Delmonico, Fr. Andrew Hege

5/05 Bill Battaglia, Jim Buchanan, Joe Doswell, Emma Silverman

5/06 Hunter Hallmark, Richard Howe

For those celebrating an anniversary this week:

5/04 Shawn and Gigi Poole

5/08 Adam Hill and Leslie Temple

Parish Prayer Cycle:

5/02 John Carlson and Katy Thompson

5/03 Orian and Cat Carter

5/04 Renee Carter

5/05 Crawford and Brynn Cleveland, Harry and Ferris

5/06 Toby and Louise Cone

5/07 Laura Coston

5/08 Lynn Coulthard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clean Up Day around the Church - Our Parish Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th from 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm. Register to join us for either the morning or the afternoon shifts - [HERE](#). We will clean out the beds around the church and spread mulch. Please wear your work clothes and bring gloves. We also need wheelbarrows and rakes. Masks and social distancing are required at all times.

In-Person Worship continues – Holy Eucharist will be offered on Wednesdays at 12:00PM, in addition to **8:00AM** (without music) and **11:00AM** (with music, live-streamed), each Sunday. Registration for Sunday services of in-person worship will open on the Monday prior to the service, at 12:00PM, via Eventbrite. Links will be available on our parish website – [HERE](#). Masks, social distancing, and pre-registration are *required* and the Church will receive a thorough cleaning between services.

Bishop's Visit and Confirmation/Reception – Bishop McLoughlin will make his visitation to St. Mary of the Hills on Sunday, June 6th. If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Andrew (rector@stmaryofthehills.org).

Altar Guild Volunteers - Altar guild members are looking for help preparing for and cleaning up after the 12 o'clock communion service on two Wednesdays each month. We are losing 2 members, one to a relocation and the other to retirement. If you can help summer, winter or full-time, please contact Sue Sweeting - sweetingsue75@yahoo.com or 828-406-9376. Thanks!

Flower Offering Opportunities – Is there an important person or a significant event happening in your life? Sponsoring the flowers placed at the altar each week is a great way to offer thanks for life's many gifts. Many dates are available for 2021. Please contact Greta Wilson, parish administrator, for more information and available dates.



St. Mary of the Hills on YouTube – Did you know that services are available for streaming and are also archived on YouTube? Visit our channel – [HERE](#) - and don't forget to subscribe.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Alex Hallmark by
JoAnn, Hunter and Spenser Hallmark.

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege	Rector
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman	Priest Associate
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster	Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Bumgardner	Organist/Choirmaster
Greta Wilson	Parish Administrator
Joe Raulerson	Financial Secretary
Bill Stroh	Sexton
Caleb Brigman, Emme Hooks, Kathryn Santiago, Jacob Smith	Choral Scholars
Megan Redford, Alex Scheurer, Chloe Shaut	Nursery Assistants

THE VESTRY

2021	2022	2023
Sterling Hutcheson	Doug Galke, Jr. Warden	Marjory Holder
Gigi Poole	Lisa Kaufman	Faith Jones
E.B. Springs	Roy McCraw	Chip Monroe
Jim West	Tim Silver, Sr. Warden	Patty Patella
	Amanda White, Treasurer	
	Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk	

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St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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