



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

22405 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona 85255 | [www.NativityScottsdale.org](http://www.NativityScottsdale.org) | 480-307-9216

*Our Mission: To transform lives with the love of God In Jesus Christ.*

*All are welcome! No Exceptions!*



## April 28, 2024 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Today's Celebrants*

Holy Eucharist Rite I - 8 am - The Rev. Wayne V. Whitney, PhD., Associate Rector

Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10 am - The Rev. Scot McComas, Rector

*All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or into any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes. Scent-Free Seating in the Nave - Because some folks have allergy issues, we have created a scent-free section in the front left part of the sanctuary. Please sit in that section only if you are free of scented items such as perfume, hairspray, after-shave, body spray, hand lotion, etc. It's an act of hospitality.*

### Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

Acknowledging the people of the land, the Akimel O'odham, O'odham Jewed, Hohokam, and other indigenous people as original stewards of this land, we give thanks for our ancestors, our elders, and for all indigenous peoples. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

#### During the 8 service:

#### During the 10 service:

Prelude

*Amazing Grace*

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 182 vs. 1-3

Opening Acclamation

Prayerbook 323

Prayerbook 355

Song of Praise/*Alleluia*

Prayerbook 356

Hymnal 178 vs. 1-2

Collect of the Day

Prayerbook 173

Prayerbook 225

*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.*

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

### **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.

**Psalm 22:24-30**      *Let us read it responsively by whole verse.*

**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.

## **Second Lesson: 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.

Sequence Hymn: *We know that Christ is raised* Hymnal 296  
(vs. 1-2 before the Gospel, 3-4 afterwards)

## **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."

Outreach Presentation: Brent Downs & Donna Guercin, Foothills Caring Corps

### During the 8 service:

### During the 10 service:

Nicene Creed

Prayerbook 326

Prayerbook 358

Prayers of the People

Prayerbook 387

Prayerbook 387

The Peace

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Offering Anthem

*Agnus Dei*, Dave & Jean Perry,  
Nativity Choir

Doxology

Hymnal 380 vs. 3

Hymnal 380 vs. 3

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayerbook 340

Prayer A - Prayerbook 361

The Sanctus

Prayerbook 341

Hymnal S129

The Lord's Prayer

Prayerbook 336

Prayerbook 364

Breaking of the Bread

Prayerbook 337

Hymnal S154

## **The Invitation to Communion**

*All who seek God are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the Bread and Wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Even if you do not seek God, God seeks you. For those who would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms-down. If you would prefer a blessing instead of communion, fold your arms across your chest. Healing prayers and prayers of Intercession are available during the 10 am service in the Prayer Chapel during Communion.*

During the 8 service:

During the 10 service:

Communion Hymn

*What a Beautiful Name*

ccli 7068424

Post-Communion Prayer      Prayerbook 339

Prayerbook 365

The Easter Blessing

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 610 vs. 1-4

Dismissal

*The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God,  
in joyous celebration of Jan's 79th birthday  
by Cheryle Dunkelberg*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Power Bible Study** - Sunday Morning Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne meets after the 10 am service in the Holy Family Room most Sundays. View the Power Bible Study playlist on the Nativity Scottsdale channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@thenativity2006>.

**Episcopal 101 Class** - Join Fr. Scot's class on *The Book of Common Prayer* in the Holy Family Room Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm. A hybrid option is available via Zoom. Email Fr. Scot for the link: [scotmccomas@thenativity.net](mailto:scotmccomas@thenativity.net).

**Hello everyone** - Sunday, April 28th, is ingathering Sunday for collecting your intention forms to build our Nativity Legacy foundation. I personally want to thank each and every parishioner who has indicated your commitment intention to remember your spiritual HOME.

Please turn in your intention form either in person or online.

Through this kind of action we truly do express our intent to bring people to God in Jesus Christ.

Again, thank you!

## **Creation Care Nativity**

In honor of Earth Day this past week, and Earth Day's educational roots, there are a couple of websites you might find helpful in exploring a wide range of ecological and climate based topics. You can subscribe to their newsletters: The Episcopal Churches Creation Care Newsletter <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/creation-care-subscribe/> Another organization with an outstanding source of information on current topics and concerns is: [EarthDay.org](http://EarthDay.org). Both distribution lists send informational articles and materials that might be of interest.

**East Valley Men's Center** - Our next dinner to the East Valley Men's Center is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30. We will be serving brauts, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, dessert and soda. Please look for the sign up sheet in Christopher Hall and know if you want to just donate food and leave it at the church and not serve with us that's just fine. We want everyone to be apart of this great ministry and enjoy an evening of doing God's work. Remember save your receipt and you will get reimbursed. We meet at the Men's Center at 5:15pm or see Tom Hackworthy if you wish to car pool from the church. Serving time is 6 pm and we're done by 7 pm. This is a fun way to serve God's children with awesome people. Please contact Tom Hackworthy at 715-377-2411 or [thackworthy@aol.com](mailto:thackworthy@aol.com) or Kathy Hackworthy at [kathy@tsraz.com](mailto:kathy@tsraz.com).

**Nativity Knitters** - Knitters, if you are knitting hats for the Mesa Men's Shelter and you want to get them out of your closet....bring finished hats to church. There is a box on the wooden desk in the music room, labeled "men's hats." We will knit until November, with a goal of 90 hats. You can crochet or knit, any color or weight of yarn, any pattern. The more variety the better!

**Foster Alliance "Birthday Dreams"** - Join the Nativity "Birthday Angels" at The Foster Alliance on Tuesday, April 30 from 1-3 pm when we select and prepare Birthday Dreams for local children in foster care. We will meet at The Foster Alliance (formerly Arizona Helping Hands) at 3100 E. Thunderbird Rd, Phoenix. Please confirm your attendance by emailing or texting Haidee Williams, 772.713.9502 or [haideeonly@gmail.com](mailto:haideeonly@gmail.com).

### **Women's Wine Night**

Wine Night is Thursday, May 2, at 5 pm at The Living Room in DC Ranch, located at the SE corner of Thompson Peak and Pima Rd (20751 N Pima Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255). PLEASE RSVP to Kay Blinn by Wednesday noon at (316) 680-1073 or [kayblinn@gmail.com](mailto:kayblinn@gmail.com).

### **Men's Pub Fellowship**

Pub Fellowship is Thursday, May 2, at 5 pm at Liberty Station, directly across the street from The Living Room. The address for Liberty Station is 20825 N Pima Road in DC Ranch (20751 N Pima Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255). Please contact Bob Blinn for more information [bob@robertblinn.com](mailto:bob@robertblinn.com).

**The next Creativity Class** will meet on the FIRST Tuesday of May. That is May 7, at 10:00-12:00 in the Holy Family Room. We will be creating an original design for a Birthday Card, using calligraphy, airbrush, stencil, paper cutting and folding. We will also make an envelope to match. This will be a chance for us to brush up on some techniques we have touched upon in the past, plus learning something new. Special equipment and supplies will be provided. Just bring your shoebox of gear (scissors, tape, etc).

Any questions? Email Dawn at [dawnkastaz@outlook.com](mailto:dawnkastaz@outlook.com). See you the morning of May 7.

**Movies and more:** Join us May 17 at 6 at SOL Mexican Cocina in the Scottsdale Quarter (address: 15323 N Scottsdale Rd) for a discussion of the film *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*. See the film first and RSVP to Wesley Spencer at [dwesleyspencer@gmail.com](mailto:dwesleyspencer@gmail.com).

**Nativity presents our 2024 Vacation Bible School**

July 8 to July 12

From nine to noon

More information to come !