

## Hymns & Readings for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Introit

We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim:  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save;  
in lonely suffering on the cross  
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

*Edward Joseph Burns (b.1938), copyright © the Revd Edward J Burns*

### Reading: Acts 8.26-40 (NRSVA)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

<sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> 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 <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' <sup>31</sup> He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> 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?' <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> 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.

### Reading: I John 4.7-21 (NRSVA)

A reading from the First Letter of John

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

## Gradual Hymn

You are the vine and we are the branches,  
prune and make us bear more fruit.  
We have been cleansed by the word you have spoken;  
abide in us, and we in you.

You are the vine and we are the branches,  
apart from you we are nothing at all.  
Teach us to love as you have commanded,  
come to us now, abide in us.

You have commanded us to love one another  
there is no greater commandment than this.  
No greater love has been shown to your people,  
than to lay down your life for us.

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## Gospel Reading: John 15.1-8 (NRSVA)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples,

<sup>1</sup> 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

## Offertory Hymn

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
This our song shall ever be;  
for we have no hope nor Saviour  
if we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus! Thou wilt give us  
strength to serve thee hour by hour;  
none can move us from thy presence  
while we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus! At thine altar  
thou dost give us sweet content;  
there, dear Saviour we receive thee  
in thy holy sacrament.

All for Jesus! Thou hast loved us,  
all for Jesus! Thou hast died,  
all for Jesus! Thou art with us,  
all for Jesus, glorified.

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
This the Church's song shall be,  
till at last the flock is gathered  
one in love, and one in thee.

*William John Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952).  
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## Closing Hymn

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to him in prayer!  
O, what peace we often forfeit,  
O, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness –  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Jesus only is our refuge,  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,  
thou wilt find a solace there.

*Joseph Madlicott Scriven (1819-1886)*

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