

Anglican Church of
St Thomas à Becket

Sunday 2nd May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter



'Jesus the True Vine' Icon, Crete C 15th

• **Service Details Sunday 2nd May**

Holy Communion (Common Worship), 10.30

Click here to join the congregation, from 10.15 onwards. Please join in good time.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272524481?pwd=_S3o5cmhaZTZyVkJPNUlrZlVvaSHphZz09

• **Notices and News**

• **The Week ahead**

In today's Gospel reading Jesus talks of himself as being 'the true vine', and of his Father as being the vine-grower: the one who plants, and prunes and clears the dead wood. And we are described as the branches of the vine, rooted in him. This is one of the seven statements (or more, depending upon how you count them), that we refer to in Biblical scholarship, as the 'ego eimi' sayings. Ego eimi is Greek, part of the verb 'to be', and meaning 'I am' or 'I exist'. They are a particular feature of the 4th Gospel, and all designed to help us towards understanding the nature of the mystery of God.

Holy Communion

The Collect for 5th Sunday of Easter

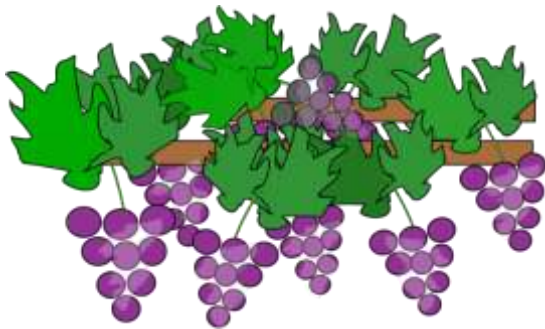
Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ,

you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that,
as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-end Then 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.)²⁷ 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 worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² 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.'³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ 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?'³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

Gospel reading: John 15:1- 8 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Notices and News

Leading our intercessions, and offering up 'the prayers of the people' is an essential part of our worship. Each Sunday, we gather up our concerns as the people of God in this time and place, and speak them out loud. I would like to invite you personally to consider whether you might like to lead these prayers

for your church community? We have a small pool of people to do this already, but we definitely need more intercessors. You would not need to lead the prayers very often, and it is a nice self-contained 'job'. If you think this might be for you, I would offer training and guidance in advance. We can also talk about any questions or concerns you may have, so you will definitely not be on your own. Please think and pray about it this week, however long you have been part of STB, and whether you are young or old. If you do then remain interested, please get in touch with me, and we can investigate further. Thank you, Jules.

Our safeguarding officers are currently making sure that checks, training and protocols for STB activities are brought up to date. The procedures need to be thorough right across the church, and we all – that is every single member of the congregation - need to be aware of safeguarding issues and alert to potential concerns. As a community seeking to show God's love, we want to do everything possible to ensure that what we offer is a 'safe space', and to protect all God's children (young and old!) Thank you especially to Madeleine and Norbert for all your work on this, and also to each one of you who has been contacted.

Living in love and faith, is the title of the Church of England's current engagement around issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Please pray for our congregations and leaders across Germany and the wider diocese, as we read and reflect, listen and learn, in love and faith.

Wednesday Morning Prayer continues weekly at 08.30 MP is a short, said service of the daily readings and psalm, placed within the regular format of Common Worship Morning Prayer. It is a wonderful way to ground yourself as you start the day. The Zoom link is in the 'week ahead' section (NB: MP only, waiting room opens at 8.25.)

Becket Mix will next meet for an on-line Kahoot! Quiz, on Saturday 15th May at 18.00. This is our STB youth group for teenagers aged over 13 (or confirmed) and the quizzes are proving to be great fun. For more information please contact Madeleine Herring or Emma Richter: madeleineherring@tonline.de or therichters@gmx.de

Junior Church STB: Attention all children!
We held our first Saturday morning Junior Church Zoom Session last week and posted the video on our Facebook page and on the website too, for you to see what fun we had: (<https://www.facebook.com/stbhamburg>) (www.anglican-church-hamburg.de). Have a look, and if you would like to take part in the next Zoom session in May (date TBC) please send an email to register, to: juniorchurch@anglican-church-hamburg.de
We would love you to join us! Miriam Hinz Kate Power, and Wendy Sprock.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the church of STB, to take place on Sunday 30th May at 12.00 noon, on Zoom. Please make a note of the date and time, and further details will follow in due course. All those on the Electoral Roll are invited to attend. The Diocese in Europe has advised that in the context of the pandemic, AGMs may be held virtually. Accordingly, any nominations, along with the names of proposer and seconder, should be submitted by email to Peter Alexander, the Council Secretary this year (rather than on the hard copy nomination forms used previously.)

Church Bazaar: 20th November 2021
We have a date and we have a plan!
This year's Bazaar will be a 'Hybrid' (Covid 19 allowing) event – part physical and part virtual. So, save the date! Eric Lord will be contacting people /groups who have been involved before by phone/email in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to get involved by helping on a stand or making things or have an idea for something new,

please get in touch with Eric. And don't forget, we really do need someone to take on the organisation of the raffle. Thank you!
Eric is contactable by email on: Kessenich05@gmx.de We look forward to hearing from you. Eric Lord and Wendy Sprock.

The week ahead

Wednesday 5th May
Morning Prayer, starting at 08.30
Lectionary Readings for MP:
Ps 30. Deut. 18:9-end. 1 Peter 2:1-10
You can join Morning Prayer here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82623076177?pwd=ZTZocUcwY25KNnZTajYvQ1JlSmlJQT09>

Saturday 8th May
Evening Prayer at 18.00
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89286260101?pwd=WHG2dmJtTit4bWhiVlJHdCtQQnhydz09>

Sunday 9th May, Sixth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion, 10.30
Preacher: Revd Dr Maija Priess
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272524481?pwd=S3o5cmhaZTZyVkJPNUlrZlVvaSHphZz09>

St Thomas à Becket Anglican Church
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chaplain@anglican-church-hamburg.de
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STB church is funded 100% by donations, so if you can make a gift, please do. Thank you!
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