

September 26, 2021

**Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite II**

10 a.m.

Prelude: *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten* BWV 647

J. S. Bach

**Opening Hymn #546** Awake my soul, stretch every nerve

*Siroë*

**Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve, and press with vigor on;  
a heavenly race demands thy zeal, and an immortal crown,  
and an immortal crown.**

**A cloud of witnesses around hold thee in full survey;  
forget the steps already trod, and onward urge thy way,  
and onward urge thy way.**

**'Tis God's all animating voice that calls thee from on high;  
'tis his own hand presents the prize to thine aspiring eye,  
to thine aspiring eye.**

**Then wake, my soul, stretch every nerve, and press with vigor on;  
a heavenly race demands thy zeal, and an immortal crown,  
and an immortal crown.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

*BCP, p. 355*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your hold Name;  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Hymn of Praise #S-280:** Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis*

Powell

**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**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. *People:* **And also with you.** *Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day** *Prayed together:*

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity;  
Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises,  
may become partakers of your heavenly treasure;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### *The Word of God*

First Reading:

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

*The Lector concludes:* The Word of the Lord. *People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 124** *Nisi quia Dominus*

*BCP, p. 781*

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*The Lector concludes:* The Word of the Lord. *People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn #635** If thou but trust in God to guide thee

*Wer nur den lieben Gott*

**If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through all thy ways,  
he'll give thee strength whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on a rock that nought can move.**

**Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving; so do thine own part faithfully,  
and trust his word, though underserving; thou yet shalt find it true for thee;  
God never yet forsook in need the soul that trusted him indeed.**

The Gospel:

*The Gospeller:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark

9:38-50

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

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

*The Gospeller concludes:* The Gospel of the Lord. *People respond:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Cecilia Parker

**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:            Form VI

BCP, p. 392

Please turn with me to Prayer Book page 392 for Form Six, this morning's Prayers of the People.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence.*

For all people in their daily life and work;

*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world.

*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

Remembering your call to be good stewards of all that you place in our care;  
we pray for the just and proper use of your creation;

*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For the vulnerable and defenseless; for the homeless and the lonely. For those who are unemployed and underemployed, and all who are facing financial distress; for those living with addiction, domestic violence, and suicidal thoughts: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble:

*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

In our cycles of prayer, we pray for the people and clergy of Christ Church, Stratford; Trinity, Tariffville; St. Peter's/Trinity, Thomaston; Trinity, Torrington and The Episcopal Church; as we pray for the peace and unity of the Church of God.

*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishops Ian and Laura, our Rector Harrison, and all bishops and other ministers.

*For all who serve God in His Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, including all those commended to the prayers of the parish ~ especially Kiri, Tanika, Robert and Jeanne (Bright), Deborah (Santi), Bill, and Jude; and for all who are contending with the Covid-19 pandemic; for medical caregivers ministering of God's healing gifts; and for those on your hearts.

*Petitions may be added aloud or in silence.*

Hear us, Lord;

*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord for all the blessings of this life.

*Thanksgivings may be added aloud or in silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, and the over 666,440 of our fellow citizens whose lives have been claimed by Covid-19 disease, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence may be kept.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence – a little longer.*

*Leader and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant will offer a concluding absolution.*

The Peace

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

Announcements and Greetings

### *The Holy Communion*

The Offertory

Offertory solo: Simple Song (from Mass) ...

L. Bernstein

Gabrielle Johnson, soprano

**The Doxology: Hymn 380** (vs. 3)

Presentation of Gifts

*Celebrant:* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People:* **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 367

*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.**

*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 through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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 Hymnal #S-125* Holy, holy, holy

Proulx

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (2x)**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (2x)**

*The Celebrant continues*

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,

*Celebrant and People*  
**We remember his death,**  
**We proclaim his resurrection,**  
**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*  
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 [\_\_\_\_\_ and] 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.*

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

*The Celebrant then invites the People to join in the Lord's Prayer.*

**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,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*BCP, p. 364*

Invitation to Prayer for Spiritual Communion

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

Communion solo:

Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as  
living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*BCP, p. 365*

Blessing

Closing Hymn #709 O God of Bethel, by whose hand

*Dundee*

O God of Bethel, by whose hand thy people still are fed;  
who through this earthly pilgrimage hast all thine Israel led:

Our vows, our prayers, we now present before thy throne of grace:  
O God of Israel, be the God of this succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread, and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy sheltering wings around, till all our wanderings cease,  
and at our Father's loved abode our souls arrive in peace!

**Such blessing from thy gracious hand our humble prayers implore;  
and thou shalt be our covenant God and portion evermore.**

Dismissal: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: Prelude on *Dundee*

C. H. H. Parry

The flowers today are in loving  
memory of Tibbie Spencer

Celebrant: The Rev. Harrison West  
Preacher: Cecilia Parker  
Music Director: Mark Sullivan  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: Chris Robinson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Jennifer Huebner  
Prayers of the People: Rob Hutchison