

April 14, 2024

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford 10:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Easter

Morning Prayer Rite II

Prelude: All glory be to God on high BWV 715

J. S. Bach

Opening hymn: #182 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing vs. 1,2,4

Truro

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now and conquer every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.**

Opening Sentence:

BCP pg. 77

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians

15:57

Confession of Sin and Absolution:

BCP pg. 79

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel, as able

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The people stand

The Invitatory and Psalter:

BCP pg. 80

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Jubilate: Psalm 100

BCP pg. 82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Psalm: Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem*

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *

how long will you worship dumb idols

and run after false gods?"

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; *

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *

speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *

and put your trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous

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

Hymn: #440 Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Liebster Jesu

Blessed Jesus, at thy word we are gathered all to hear thee;
let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear thee;
by thy teachings pure and holy, drawn from earth to love thee solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till thy Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded;
thou alone to God canst win us; thou must work all good within us.

Gracious Lord, thyself impart! Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open thou our ears and heart, help us by thy Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry thy Church upraises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

The Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

The Word of the Lord.

People respond: **Thanks be**

to God.

Homily:
Rivera

The Rev. Felix

The Apostle's Creed:

BCP

pg. 96

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,

and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

The Offertory

[Click here to give](#)

[online](#)

Offertory anthem: A Song to the Lamb

C.

Hampton

DOXOLOGY: #380 v. 3

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The people stand or kneel

The Prayers

BCP

pg. 97

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us say together:

The Lord's Prayer

BCP

pg. 97

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

The Suffrages Set B

BCP

pg. 98

Save your people, Lord and bless your inheritance;

Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Day by day we bless you;

We praise your Name for ever.

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

For we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope;

And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Sundays

BCP

pg. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

BCP

pg. 99

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Grace

BCP

pg. 100

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

BCP

pg. 100

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you

so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers of our People

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially for Michelle, Chloe Negron, Noreen, Chris S., David Barker, Ignacio, Peggy Van Patten, Paul, Heather Henning for the safety of the children and families of St. Luke's Church & School in Haiti, and for all others for whom we pray, either silently or aloud; for the clergy and people of St. Peter's, Milford; Trinity, Milton; St. Peter's Grace, Monroe. Hospital chaplains; Stephen Ministers; pastoral care groups; ministries of healing; nurses; wellness programs; recovery ministries; and for the people of The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. *Amen.*

Solo: *Laudate Dominum*

W. A.

Mozart

Leila Mustakos,

soprano

The General Thanksgiving

BPC

pg. 101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BPC

pg. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of

them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: #193 That Easter Day with joy was bright
nobis

Puer

**That Easter day with joy was bright: the sun shone out with fairer light,
when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**His risen flesh with radiance glowed; his wounded hands and feet he showed;
those scars their solemn witness gave that Christ was risen from the grave.**

**O Jesus, King of gentleness, do thou thyself our hearts possess
that we may give thee all our days the willing tribute of our praise.**

**O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide;
from every weapon death can wield thine own redeemed forever shield.**

**All praise, O risen Lord, we give to thee who, dead, again dost live;
to God the Father equal praise, and God the Holy Ghost we raise.**

The Dismissal
pg. 102

BPC

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

—

Postlude: *Gelobet sei Gott* ('Good Christian friends')
Willan

H.



*Today's Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of
Robert & Cynthia Holmes, Margaret Wood Smith, given by Jennfier Huebner*

Come Celebrate the Opening of our Lower Level this Sunday

Join us for a coffee hour and the “official” ribbon cutting ceremony at the entrance to the newly renovated lower level. This area is dedicated to offices for the rector and administrator, our Sunday School program and new meeting and storage areas.

Participating In Today’s Worship:

Officiant: Deacon Felix Rivera

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Soloist: Leila Mustakos

Psalm & 1st Reading: Julie Harris

2nd Reading: Patti Kron

Usher: Diana Stovall

Coffee Hour Host: Lisa Ste. Marie

Counters: Gene Bishop & Leigh Beatty (week of 4/15 - 4/19)

This Week at CEC, including upcoming events

[?] Music Meditations - Every Friday at 12-12:30 pm: Come quiet your mind and feed your spirit with lovely organ music played by Mark Sullivan!

[?] Choir Rehearsal - Every Thursday at 7pm

[?] Bible Study – Join Cecelia Bellomy Parker every Monday at 5 pm. Email Cecelia for the Zoom link at cbellomy15@gmail.com

[?] WE'RE HIRING!

It's important that families have childcare options at CEC all year round, so we plan to bring back childcare for this summer. We are looking for someone (or two) to be with the kids on Sunday mornings beginning in mid-June. It is paid and perfect job for a high school or college student. If you know someone who is interested, please contact Lisa Ste. Marie at warden@christchurchguilford.org.

Sunday School: All students will meet in the rectory today.

- ❑ **Lesson of the day:** God Makes Beautiful Things by Karen I. Nourse.
- ❑ Students will head outside at 10:15 a.m. We will be sprucing up the sandbox area and making fairy houses.
- ❑ Students will bless the new classroom and hold a discussion about Jesus after Easter, focusing on the journey to Emmaus.
- ❑ Sunday School Schedule: April: 21, 28 - May: 5, 12, 19
- ❑ Monthly Faith Formation Meetings: May 5, June 2
- ❑ **SAVE THE DATE:** Vacation Bible School August 12th – 16th from 9 to 12 PM (Registration will open soon.)

Coffee Hour Schedule

- ❑ We need coffee hour hosts for the next several Sundays: April 21 & 28 and May 5 & 12. Please take a Sunday either on your own or share it with friends! You'll find the sign-up sheet in the parish hall or you can email the office at admin@christchurchguilford.org

The ECW group wishes to express our sincere gratitude to each of you for your generosity. May blessings be upon you all for your unwavering support, which we deeply value. Please remember, every contribution, no matter how small, can make a significant impact. Thank you for being an integral part of our community. Upcoming Projects and Events include:

- ❑ **Roses For Mother** on Sunday, May 12th: watch for details later this month.
- ❑ **Annual June Luncheon** on June 13th: time and place TBD



If you would like to make an offering to Christ Episcopal Church, please scan this QR code with your smartphone for a link to our online giving. *All donations in support of the church mission are appreciated.* You can also go online and give at: www.christchurchguilford.org/stewardship-and-giving

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES to CONNECT

- ❑ **Guilford Food Bank:** Please put donations for the Guilford Food Bank in the box located in the vestibule of the church. Items currently needed are: whole grain cereals, crackers, hearty soup, gluten free products, household cleaner, soap, dish detergent, shampoo, toothpaste. Items commonly distributed at GFB: non sugared cold, hot cereal, 100% fruit juice, canned tomato products, peanut butter, mustard, shelf-life milk, coffee, tea, tuna, canned chicken, dried beans.
- ❑ **Change Jar:** Look for the large jar on the table at the back of the church. The money collected will be used to support Outreach programs such as the New York Haiti Project, as well as programs closer to home.

- ❓ **Supermarket Gift Cards** can be dropped off with the parish administrator.

- ❓ **Newcomers:** If you are visiting Christ Church for the first time (or perhaps have been coming regularly) please fill out the Welcome form in the pew holder. We would also ask that you sign the guest book at the rear of the church before you leave.

- ❓ **Altar Flowers:** If you would like to offer flowers on a Sunday in memory or in honor of someone, please contact the church office. You may purchase & bring them, have a local florist deliver, or offer flowers from your garden.

- ❓ **Home Communion** is available to those who are not able to attend church in-person. Please call the church office at 203-453-2279 to schedule a Eucharistic Visit.

- ❓ **Food Bank:** Many thanks for your continued support. Gift cards to Big Y or Stop & Shop are needed to help feed those in need here in our own community. They can be dropped off at the Rectory Office or you can write a check to CEC with a note on the memo line: "Food Bank."

Whether you're new to Christ Episcopal Church or you've been coming a long time,
WE WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU! Just scan the QR code with your phone's camera, click on the link, and complete our quick and easy Parish Connect Form.
You can also fill out a hard copy on the table in the back of the church.



Christ Episcopal Church, on the Guilford Green since 1744

Our Mission Statement: To welcome all, to provide hope, and express gratitude for God's love and creation, while nurturing our community and celebrating our faith.