

January 28, 2024

**Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite II**

10:00 a.m.

*Whether you are new or returning, welcome to Christ Church this morning! We are glad that you are with us, wherever you are on your spiritual journey. We invite you to participate fully in our worship and we hope that you will be enriched and refreshed through this experience.*

*As used in this bulletin, hymn numbers refer to [The Hymnal 1982](#) found in the pew rack in front of you, and BCP refers to the red [Book of Common Prayer](#) also found in the pew rack. **All congregational responses to be read in unison are boldfaced.** And if you need anything, please see an usher in the back of the church. Welcome!*

**10AM Holy Eucharist** with hymns, soloist, choir, & organ music.

The Rev. Peter Sipple presiding.

**Coffee Hour:** After-Church Gathering in the Parish Hall~All Welcome!

PRELUDE: There is a Spirit that delights to do no evil

N. Rorem

OPENING HYMN: #533 How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!

Lyons

**How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!**

**How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!**

**O who shall not fear thee, and honor thy Name?**

**Thou only art holy, thou only supreme.**

**To nations of earth thy light shall be shown; their worship and vows shall come to thy throne: thy truth and thy judgements shall spread all abroad, till earth's every people confess thee their God.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

*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-278 Glory to God

Matthias

**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*

*Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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*

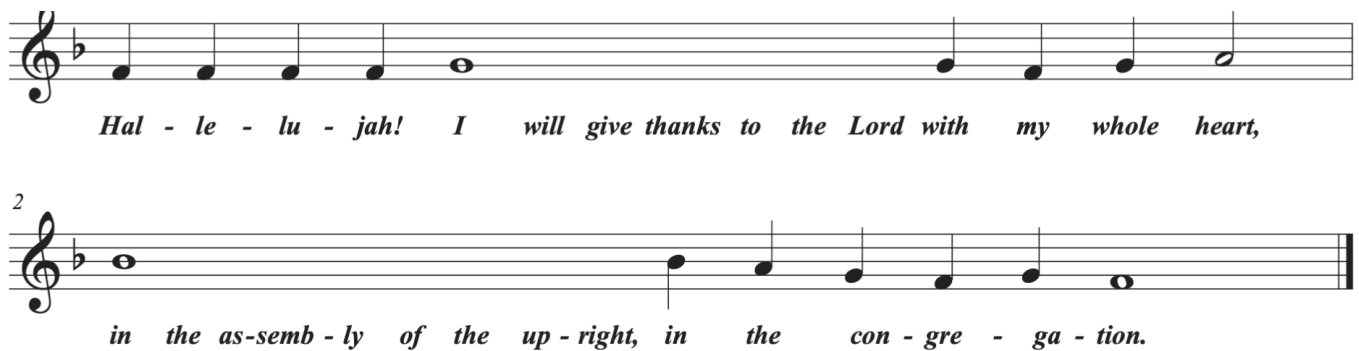
FIRST READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

THE PSALM Psalm 111 *Confitebor tibi*

**Refrain: Verse 1 (first time, Cantor, then all)**



- 2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! \*  
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*  
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*  
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. **Refrain**
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; \*  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works \*  
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*  
all his commandments are sure. **Refrain**
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, \*  
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
his praise endures for ever. **Refrain**

## SECOND READING    1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #577 God is love, and where true love is *Ubi caritas (Murray)*

**Refrain: God is love, and where true love is God himself is there.**

**Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling. Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting. Let us fear and love him, holy God eternal. Loving him, let each love Christ in one another.**

**When we Christians gather, members of one Body, let there be in us no discord but one spirit. Banished now be anger, strife, and every quarrel. Christ, our God be always present here among us.**

**Grant us love’s fulfillment, joy with all the blessed, when we see your face, O Savior, in its glory. Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation, be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.**

THE GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

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

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him,

saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

Rev. Peter Sipple

## NICENE CREED

*BCP*, p. 358

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form III

*BCP*, p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
***That we all may be one.***

We pray for the people and clergy of St. James', Danbury; Saint Luke's and St. Paul's, Darien; Immanuel St. James, Derby; and for The Anglican Church of Chile.  
Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for our presiding bishop Michael, our bishop Jeffrey and Laura, and all bishops, priests and deacons;  
***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

Remembering all peacemakers and peacekeepers, especially those serving in places torn by warfare, terror and gun violence:

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Remembering our call to be good stewards of your Creation: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on them and on all those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially for Elmer C., Chris S., Joe W., David Barker, Ignacio, Peggy Van Patten, Paul, Heather Henning, Chloe, Cynthia D, Ken G, 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;

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest;

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We pray for all who have died, including Patricia Whiteman;

***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

We offer our thanksgivings for this day, this place, for all the gifts to keep our neighbors warm, and for all who have made this celebration possible.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

***Silence.***

*(Celebrant will add a concluding collect. )*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION**

*BCP, p. 360*

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and people:*

**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.**

*Celebrant:*

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

### THE PEACE

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS

## *The Holy Communion*

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### THE OFFERTORY

[\*Click here to give online\*](#)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Walk Humbly with your God

R. Shepherd

THE DOXOLOGY: #380 v. 3 only *Old 100th*

**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**

### PRESENTATION OF THE 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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you

have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

**THE SANCTUS S-128 Holy, Holy, Holy  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:* 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;**

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 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BCP, p. 364*

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*BCP, p. 364*

FRACTION ANTHEM: #S155 Christ our Passover

G. Near

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Invitation to 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 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: There is a balm in Gilead

trad, arr. H. T. Burleigh  
Leila Mustakos – soprano

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

*BCP, p. 365*

**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.**

**AN EPIPHANY BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN: #493 O, for a thousand tongues to sing vs. 1–3, 6  
O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**

*Azmon*

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim and  
spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.**

**Jesus! The Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace,**

**Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints  
above, the Church in earth and heaven.**

**DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant:* Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Lord Jesus Christ, be present now BWV 655**

J. S. Bach

**Participating In Today's Worship:**

The Rev. Peter Sipple, Presider

Mark Sullivan, Music Director

Leila Mustakos

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Dennis Burke, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm

Patti Kron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Laura Raymond, Prayers of the People &  
Communion Prayer

David Jones & Chris Robinson,  
Chalice Bearers

Jean Meiselman & Mardee Moore, Ushers

Virginia Syombathy, Altar Guild

Dennis Burke, Coffee Hour Host

Leigh Beatty & Melissa Lamoreaux, Counters



***Today's Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of  
George & Elizabeth K. Merrill and Floyde & Emily Shackford,  
the grandparents of Sue Shackford***

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### **This Week at CEC, including upcoming events**

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- **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](mailto:cbellomy15@gmail.com)

**Sunday School Updates:** Students will meet in the Rectory at 10:00 am.

**[?] Activities and Lessons:**

- Let's build the temple of God!
- Learn about the story of King David and Solomon.
- STREAM challenge- students will explore Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math
- Youth Group Song Rehearsal
- Middle and High School students are encouraged to join the 10 am church service while Page is away.

**[?] Save the date:**

- February 13th 5:30 p.m.- SHROVE Tuesday
- February 14th-Wednesday
- March 10th - Youth Sunday
- March 23rd 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Pisanki

**Annual Report Parish Meeting:** February 25th: All reports are now due at [admin@christchurchguilford.org](mailto:admin@christchurchguilford.org)

**Temporary Accessibility Changes Due to Asbestos abatement:** Asbestos abatement work will begin Monday January 29 and be completed by February 9. During this period the elevator and side door entrance from the parking lot between the Rectory and church will not be accessible, except by the asbestos work crew. Apologies for any inconvenience while we accomplish this necessary work.

**Weekly Offering Envelopes are now available for pickup!** If you ordered them, they will be in the rear of the church labeled with your name.

### **ECW News:**

- ❑ No ECW meetings in January and February. Our gatherings will resume on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Guild Room. Join us for a brief planning session to schedule upcoming projects and events. Feel free to bring lunch. We're excited to announce that Julie Harris, our resident author, will share a portion of her latest book. Copies will be available for purchase. All Christ Church Women are welcome at this first meeting of 2024.
- ❑ Available now in the parish hall: Sweet Treats, Handmade note cards and Valentine's cards with card holders
- ❑ Annual Lenten Project, "Fill a Bag" starting Sunday, February 4th - Sunday, March 3rd: we will collect toiletries and needed items, for those living on the margin of society. New Sox and Underwear collected will be delivered along with the filled bags to the Chapel on the Green program. We are grateful for your support and please know that this project serves many men, women and children. Show love for our neighbors as God has asked of us. Thank you in advance.

**Coffee Hour Schedule:** Please sign up for this important ministry of hospitality! You'll find the sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

- ❑ 1/28-Dennis Burke
- ❑ 2/4: Julie Harris
- ❑ 2/11: ECW
- ❑ 2/18: TBD
- ❑ 2/25: Annual Meeting featuring Pat Kral's Special Soup Recipe

**Food Bank:** The Guilford Food Bank currently needs tea, crackers, canned fruit (no added sugar), canned chicken, hot chocolate, 100% fruit juice, gluten free products, laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels, shampoo. Thank you.



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](http://www.christchurchguilford.org/stewardship-and-giving)

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.



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### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES to CONNECT

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- **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:** We realize that not all our church family is able to attend worship services in person. If you or someone you know would like to receive communion where you live, please contact the church office at 203-453-2279. Rev. Mary Anne will gladly bring communion to you.
- **Change for Charity:** You may now notice the big Blue Ball jar in the back of the church. We all have that bowl at home where we dump our loose change. It never gets spent or banked. Why not empty your change into that Ball jar where the money can be put to good use for the charities we all support? We will use those coins to help our favorite charities!
- **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." The Guilford Food Bank currently needs tea, crackers, canned fruit (no added sugar), canned chicken, hot chocolate, 100% fruit juice, gluten free products, laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels, shampoo.
- **Postcards:** There are some lovely already-stamped postcards in the back of the church and also on the shelf at the Front Door of the Rectory. The idea for these postcards is to send a note to someone you are thinking about, praying for, and just want to say hello and "I'm thinking about you". Please take 1, 2, or 22 and share some love with others!

***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.***