

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford
An Order of Worship – Hilary of Poitiers
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 7:00 in the evening

The church is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Prelude: Pie Jesu

N. Rorem

The Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Sentence:

Luke 12:1-3

Meanwhile, when the crowd gathered in thousands, so that they trampled on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, 'Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.'

Opening Hymn: #609 Where cross the crowded ways of life vs 1,2,4,5

Gardiner

**Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of thy tears.**

**O Master, from the mountain side, make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide, O tread the city's streets again;**

**till all the world shall learn thy love, and follow where thy feet have trod;
till glorious from thy heaven above, shall come the city of our God.**

Let us pray:

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us, and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 119:105-112 *prayed responsively*

BCP, p. 772

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.

106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.

107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.

108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, *

and teach me your judgments.

109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.

110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.

111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

A reading from the First Letter of John

2:20-21, 24-28

But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him.

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

The Lector concludes: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

The Great Litany

EOW, pp. 46-49

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy on us.

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,
Savior deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of
heart and contempt for your word and your laws,
Savior deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
Savior deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,
Savior deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the day of judgment,
Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;
by the preaching of your reign,
Savior deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,
Savior deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Savior deliver us.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give your wisdom and strength to those who currently hold - and those who will soon receive –
executive authority for the United States, in this state and Town that in all things they may do your will,
for your glory and the common good.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our
state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth.
Hear us, O Christ.

Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law,
that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.
Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.
Hear us, O Christ.

Bless and keep all your people,
Hear us, O Christ.

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved (especially _____) and the oppressed.
Hear us, O Christ.

Keep in safety all who are in peril.
Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit (especially _____) and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

Hear us, O Christ.

Show your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are held captive.

Hear us, O Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died (especially _____) and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy on us.

Collect for Hilary of Poitiers

O Lord our God, you raised up your servant Hilary to be a champion of the catholic faith:

Keep us steadfast in that true faith which we professed at our baptism,

that we may rejoice in having you for our Father,

and may abide in your Son, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit;

who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

The Officiant and People say together

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the following

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: #615 Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee

St. Flavian

**"Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that kingdom's day.**

**But the slow watches of the night not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills the flags of dawn appear;
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls, proclaim the day is near:**

**the day to whose clear shining light all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned in might, and every hurt be healed;**

**when knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth abroad;
the day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: How brightly shines the Morning Star

J. Pachelbel

Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, d. 367

Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, was a prolific writer on Scripture and doctrine, an orator, and a poet to whom some of the earliest Latin hymns have been attributed. Augustine called him "the illustrious doctor of the Churches." Jerome considered him "the trumpet of the Latins against the Arians."

Hilary was born in Poitiers in Gaul, about 315, into a pagan family of wealth and power. In his writings, he describes the stages of the spiritual journey that led him to the Christian faith. He was baptized when he was about thirty.

In 350, Hilary was made Bishop of Poitiers. Although he demurred, he was finally persuaded by the people's acclamations. He proved to be a bishop of skill and courage. His Orthodoxy was shown when, in 355, the Emperor Constantius ordered all bishops to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, under pain of exile.

Hilary wrote to Constantius, pleading for peace and unity. His plea accomplished nothing, and, when he dissociated himself from three Arian bishops in the West, Constantius ordered Julian (later surnamed the Apostate) to exile him to Phrygia. There he remained for three years, without complaining, writing scriptural commentaries and his principal work, *On the Trinity*.

Hilary was then invited by a party of "semi-Arians," who hoped for his support, to a Council at Seleucia in Asia, largely attended by Arians; but with remarkable courage, in the midst of a hostile gathering, Hilary defended the Council of Nicaea and the Trinity, giving no aid to the "semi-Arians." He wrote again to Constantius, offering to debate Saturninus, the Western bishop largely responsible for his exile. The Arians feared the results of such an encounter and persuaded Constantius to return Hilary to Poitiers.

In 360, Hilary was welcomed back to his see with great demonstrations of joy and affection. He continued his battle against Arianism, but he never neglected the needs of his people. Angry in controversy with heretical bishops, he was always a loving and compassionate pastor to his diocese. Among his disciples was Martin, later Bishop of Tours, whom Hilary encouraged in his endeavors to promote the monastic life.

Lesser Feasts and Fast 2006: New York: Church Publishing, 2006, p. 128