

**Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford**  
An Order of Worship – St. Matthias' & Lenten Ember Day  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – 7:00 in the evening

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

Prelude: Prelude on *Melcombe*

C. H. H. Parry

*The Officiant greets the people with these words*

*Officiant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Opening Sentences:

1 Peter 4:10-11

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Light

BCP, p. 111

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame, we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Opening Hymn: #605** What does the Lord require

*Sharpthorne*

**What does the Lord require for praise and offering?  
What sacrifice desire, or tribute bid you bring?  
Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.**

**Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice show?  
Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?  
Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.**

**Still down the ages ring the prophet's stern commands.  
To merchant, worker, king he brings God's high demands.  
Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.**

**How shall my soul fulfill God's law so hard and high?  
Let Christ endue our will with grace to fortify.  
Then justly, in mercy we'll humbly walk with God.**

**Psalm 15**

BCP, p. 599

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; \*

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

V: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, One God;

R: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**A reading from the Book of John**

15:1, 7-17

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ... My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*The Lector concludes:* The word of the Lord.

*Response:* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Litany for Ordinations**

*BCP, p. 548-550*

We pray to you, Lord Christ.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth  
and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry,  
that they may serve you in a true and godly life,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons,  
that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth,  
and may thirst after righteousness,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ,  
that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may  
preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith,  
that they may receive the light of the Gospel,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and  
forbearance may grow among nations and peoples,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those in positions of public trust in our nation, state and town,  
that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and  
freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use  
of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from  
poverty, famine, and disaster,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for  
refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may  
be relieved and protected,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the  
grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and  
those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the  
saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain

or grief, but life eternal,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Matthias and  
all the saints, let us commend ourselves,  
and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.  
*To you, O Lord our God.*

Collect for St. Matthias

*BCP, p. 239*

**Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose  
your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve:  
Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles,  
may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.***

Collect III: For all Christians in their vocation

*BCP, p. 256*

**Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified:  
receive our supplications and prayers,  
which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church,  
that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you;  
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.***

Collect (adapted)

*BCP, p. 493*

**O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day  
all who have died within the past year,  
especially those over 500,000 claimed by the Covid-19 pandemic.  
We thank you for giving them to us, their family and friends,  
to know and to love as companions on our earthly pilgrimage.  
In your boundless compassion, console all who mourn.  
Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life,  
so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth,  
until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

*Additional petitions, intercessions and Thanksgivings may be offered at this time.*

*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.*

Closing Hymn #531: O Spirit of the living God

*Melcombe*

O Spirit of the living God, in all thy plenitude of grace,  
where'er the foot of man hath trod, descend on our apostate race.

Give tongues of fire and hearts of love, to preach the reconciling word;  
give power and unction from above, whene'er the joyful sound is heard.

Be darkness, at thy coming, light; confusion, order in thy path;  
souls without strength inspire with might, bid mercy triumph over wrath.

Convert the nations! Far and nigh the triumphs of the cross record;  
the Name of Jesus glorify, till every people call him Lord.

**Closing Solemn Prayer**

Grant, Almighty God, that we, your people, may recognize our  
weakness and put our whole trust in your strength, so that we  
may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Alle menschen müssen sterben* BWV 643

J. S. Bach





