

July 28, 2024 10 a.m.



Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite II
The Rev. Michael Sweeney, celebrant

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church. If you are new or visiting, a special welcome to you. There are welcome cards at the end of each pew which can be placed in the offering plate at the offertory.

The community called Christ Church has gathered here since 1744; and it is made new every Sunday. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, it's an honor to worship with you. As a human being created in the image of God, you have something to teach this community about our Christian calling to love God and neighbor. Your presence is a blessing.

May this gathering be a blessing to you.

This morning we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the "Philadelphia Eleven." The first women to serve as priests in the Episcopal Church, they were ordained in Philadelphia on July 29, 1974. This morning's collect of the day and prayers of the people have been adapted slightly from prayers written by the Very Reverend Kay Sylvester to commemorate this special day.

Prelude: *Vor deinem Thron* ('Before Thy Throne') BWV 668

J. S. Bach

Prayer before worship

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This spoken prayer is followed by two minutes of silent prayer to prepare in heart and mind for worship. There are prayers you may find helpful in the red prayer book, pages 814-835. Or you might simply focus your attention on the breath—the breath of Christ's peace, the breath of life by which the Spirit sustains every living being in God's interconnected creation.

Hymn #304 I come with joy to meet my Lord

Land of Rest

Sung by all, standing as you are able. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982, unless noted.

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

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

R. Powell

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The celebrant says the Collect.

Holy God, you call us to serve you in various ministries, so that your Church may grow and thrive: Give us grace to follow the example of the eleven women ordained in Philadelphia fifty years ago, that we may never cease our labor, our care and diligence, until we have done all that lies in us, to serve as messengers, stewards, and keepers of your Good News. We pray because of Jesus, who calls us to follow. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The people sit.

First Reading:

Exodus 1:15-20

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive." So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.

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

The Psalm: Psalm 14 *Dixit insipiens*

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *

All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;

there is none who does any good.

2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, *

to see if there is any who is wise,

if there is one who seeks after God.

3 Every one has proved faithless;

all alike have turned bad; *

there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *

who eat up my people like bread

and do not call upon the Lord?

5 See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the Lord is their refuge.

7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:14-21

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

All standing.

Hymn #455 O love of God, how strong and true

Dunedin

The Gospel according to John

6:1-21

The Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat

down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospeller concludes: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Michael Sweeney

All standing

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.**

The people stand or kneel.

Prayers of the People: Form III

BCP, p. 387

God of our forebears, we remember the first women ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church: Alison, Alla, Betty, Carter, Emily, Jeannette, Katrina, Marie, Merrill, Nancy, and Suzanne.

Thank you for calling them to priesthood, and for giving them the resolve to answer.

We thank you, Holy One.

We remember the bishops who acted to ordain them: Daniel Corrigan, Robert DeWitt, and Edward Welles. We thank you for their apostolic service.

We thank you, Holy One.

We thank you for the bishops and deputies who acted to break down gender barriers to ordination, opening the way for women to answer your call in this church.

We thank you, Holy One.

Spirit of love, we pray for ears to hear your call, and the strength to answer.

Hear us, Holy One.

Spirit of wisdom, we pray for discerning hearts, so that we may recognize the gifts and ministries for which you equip us.

Hear us, Holy One.

Spirit of justice, we pray for those who are devalued and limited rather than lifted and celebrated; help us to see your glory in every human face.

Hear us, Holy One.

Spirit of love, we pray for your church and for your world. In our cycles of prayer, we pray for the clergy and people of St. John's, Salisbury; Trinity, Seymour; Christ Church, Sharon; and for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East. We pray for those on the parish prayer list, including Maria, Terry K., Nancy S., Laura, Noah Fujimoto Sands, BJ Wellman and family, Debbie R, Shelley and John N, Debra Santi, Kathy Rodgers, Michelle, Chloe Negron, Noreen, David Barker, Ignacio, Peggy Van Patten, Paul, Heather Henning, the family of Lois Creighton; and for those on your hearts.

Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister 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 declares the Absolution

The Peace

All stand.

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

Announcements and Greetings

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Offertory voluntary: *Schmücke dich* ('Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness') J. Brahms

The Doxology: Hymn 380 (vs. 3)

The people stand

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

The people remain standing.

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.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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:

Celebrant and People – Hymnal S-125: Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus* R. Proulx

The people remain standing or kneel.

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;**

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.**

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

**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.**

Invitation to Communion: The Gifts of God for the People of God

All are welcome to receive Communion or a blessing. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms against your chest. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. After receiving the bread, you may "intinct" (touch the edge of your bread to the wine) in the first chalice you come to; or you may consume the bread immediately and sip from the second chalice. If you do not wish to receive the wine, you may receive the bread alone. The priest has individually wrapped gluten-free wafers available on request. If having communion brought to your pew would be a help, please just let an usher know.

Communion solo: You who are thirsty

B. Ross

Gabrielle Johnson, soprano

The people stand or kneel.

Postcommunion 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.**

Blessing

The people stand.

Hymn #448 O love, how deep, how broad, how high vs. 1–3, 6

Deus tuorum militum

Dismissal: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Postludium*

F. Peeters

In Today's Worship

Celebrant: The Rev. Michael Sweeney, Priest-in-charge

Ushers: Carol Iovanna

1st Reading & Psalm: Tony Leonard

2nd Reading: Julie Harris

Prayers of the People: Laura Raymond

Chalice Bearers: Diane Kyle, Caroline Herrik

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Altar Guild: Virginia Syombathy

Counters: Leigh Beatty, Gene Bishop

This morning's flowers were donated by Katherine Freidenborg in memory of John J Marquardt.

Beach Services: This Sunday at 5 pm at Jacobs! We have the pavilion reserved from 5:00-8:00pm this Sunday. Feel free to stay after the service to enjoy some social time and beach play. Invite family and friends! These services are very family-friendly and will have "hands-on" elements that engage children. Please note: these services are in addition to our 10am services! **Schedule: July 28 (5pm), August 11 (4pm), August 25 (4pm).**

Welcome Dinners with Father Michael: There will be a number of dinners hosted by congregational members over the coming months to provide everyone the opportunity to spend time outside of church with Michael. These small dinners will help him get to know all of us on a more personal basis, learning more about our experiences and hopes for the future of our parish. Check the sign-up sheet in the back of the church for upcoming events hosted by Ted Sands and Caroline Herrick, and Vicky Reeve. We will continue to add more dates – stay tuned!

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 in the rear of the church before you leave.

ECW News: The Annual Episcopal Church Women in Connecticut meeting and luncheon will be held on Thursday, September 5th at Aqua Turf, 565 Mullberry Street, Plainville (Southington). This is always a wonderful day starting at 9:00 am with a continental breakfast, Holy Eucharist, brief business meeting, guest speaker and complete delicious luncheon. Entree choice: pan seared salmon, chicken Valdectone and vegetable lasagna; the cost is \$25.00 per person. Reservations must be made by Sunday, July 28th to Rhoda Whitman, (203) 668-3454. We will car pool to the Aqua Turf from Christ Church. Checks should be made to Christ Episcopal Church ECW, with Aqua Turf on the memo line.

Tag Sale: We are now in full TAG SALE mode. Even though we are scaling back on the size of the sale this year, it is proving to be just as exciting. Please drop your donations off in the Room off the parish hall (known to many as the old Nursery). **PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF FURNITURE!!** We will accept small furniture items the week prior to the sale. Please remember that we also do not accept books of any kind, electronics or shoes. Please contact Rose Robinson with questions. Rose.robinson5959@gmail.com

Outreach Committee: There will be an Outreach Committee Meeting on July 31st at 6 pm in the Church Guild Room

Online Giving: Scan the QR code to connect to our website for online giving.



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 of 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.

Change for Charity: Your loose change makes a difference! Please empty any change you're carrying around in the jar at the back of the church. It is used for charities supported by our church.

Do you have a name tag?

Let's make it easy for Father Sweeney as he learns all about us. Please grab your nametag from the back board at the church - and wear it now because we can all use help with names, right? If you don't have a name tag, please email Mardee Moore (mhmoore1234@gmail.com) who can order one for you.

Camp Washington : ECCT's Camp Washington offers one more session the week of August 4-9 for teens ages 12-16. This week-long session offers all the fun and awesomeness you expect at Camp Washington: Archery, Arts & Crafts, boating, campfires, hiking, sports, singing, swimming, theatre and more! For more information, or to register, go to <https://www.campwashington.org/summercamp>.