

September 17, 2023

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford

10:00 a.m.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Morning Prayer Rite II

*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 Morning Prayer** with hymns, choir, and organ music. Gabrielle Johnson officiating.

**Sunday School:** Lower School (Pre-K – 4th Grade) and Youth Group (5th Grade & up)

**Ministry Fair** during coffee hour following service

PRELUDE: “Prelude on Rhosymedre”

*R.V.*

*Williams*

OPENING HYMN: “O bless the Lord, my soul”

*St. Thomas (Williams)*

OPENING SENTENCES

BCP pg. 75

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. *Habakkuk 2:20*

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 INVITATORY AND PSALTER

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.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

**Come let us adore him.**

VENITE Psalm 95:1-7

BCP pg. 82

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

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 103:1-13

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \***  
**and forget not all his benefits.**
- 3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \***  
**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness \***  
**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \***  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \***  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \***  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 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.**

*The people sit*

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you

intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

*After the reading:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*After the reading:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: #665 “All my hope on God is founded”

*Michael*

THE GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle

accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*After the reading:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand*

### THE APOSTLES’ 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

Gabrielle Johnson

### THE OFFERTORY

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Lord, for thy tender mercies’ sake”

*R. Farrant*

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 SUFFRAGE Set A

BCP pg. 97

Show us your mercy, O Lord;	<b>And grant us your salvation.</b>
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;	<b>Let your people sing with joy.</b>
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;	<b>For only in you can we live in safety.</b>
Lord, keep this nation under your care;	<b>And guide us in the way of justice and truth.</b>
Let your way be known upon earth;	<b>Your saving health among all nations.</b>
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;	<b>Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.</b>
Create in us clean hearts, O God;	<b>And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.</b>

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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 THE RENEWAL OF LIFE

BCP pg. 99

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through 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.**

### A PRAYER FOR MISSION

BCP pg. 100

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

### THE PRAYERS OF OUR PEOPLE

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially for: *Marsha, Wayne Juniver, Evelyn, Baby John Reuben, Henry, Shari, Josh L, Cynthia D, Brennie, Cindy T, Jean M, Ken G, for the safety of the children and families of St. Luke's Church & School in Haiti, for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and for all others for whom we pray, either silently or aloud.*

Let us pray together for our Search Process: **Dear Lord, in this season of change, we pray for our parish of Christ Church and our vestry. Guide us that we may be patient in our discernment, steadfast in our commitment, and imaginative about our future. We look to your wisdom and companionship in our journey to find a rector who will enlighten and inspire us through preaching, who will engage us through teaching, who will encourage us to serve others, and who will motivate us to celebrate the gospel in word and deed. All this we ask so that we may all come to know the love of Christ more deeply. Amen.**

### 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: #390 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

*Lobe den herren*

THE DISMISSAL

BPC pg. 102

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “A mighty fortress”

*H. Walcha*

**Participating In Today’s Worship:**

Gabrielle Johnson, Officiant

Mark Sullivan, Music Director

Leila Mustakos, Soloist

Tony Leonard, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm

Diana Stovall, Usher

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

Julie Gibson & Gabrielle Johnson, Counters

Gabrielle Johnson, Gospel Reading & Prayers



***The Altar Flowers are given today to the Glory of God***

***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.***

**This Week at CEC**

- **TODAY after church:** Ministry Fair! Sign up for a ministry or activity that calls to you



in the Parish Hall after church.

- **Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at ?pm:** Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary
- **Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12-12:30pm:** Music Meditations – Come quiet your mind and feed your spirit with lovely organ music played by Mark Sullivan!
- **Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 5-7pm:** Silent Auction & Tag Sale Preview
- **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30am-2pm:** Annual Tag Sale

**TAG SALE:** We will need lots of help to make this our best TAG SALE ever!! Please see the SIGN UP GENIUS in the newsletter and sign up where you can. If you have problems signing up please text Rose Robinson @ 203.815.4191. **We will need lots of help both Friday 9/22 and Saturday 9/23.** Even if the slots are full, feel free to stop by and lend a hand. *If you haven't dropped off your tag sale treasures, please do so ASAP.* We would like to have everything sorted and priced by 9/18. Thank you to all of our Tag Sale team for the work that they have done so far and thanks to everyone who has contributed items for the sale.....we have some great things this year. Be sure to spread the word to family and friends and please share the flyer on your FB page (which can be found and shared from the Christ Church FB page)

**SIGNUP TO HELP:** [www.signupgenius.com/go/805094ba5aa2fa3f94-tagsale#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094ba5aa2fa3f94-tagsale#/)

## Upcoming Events

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- **Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm:** Monday Night Bible study on Zoom with Cecelia Bellomy
- **Thursday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm:** GHS Voices & UConn Chamber Singers concert at Christ Church
- **Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>:** YOUTH SUNDAY! Sunday School students will be serving on the altar and hosting coffee hour.
- **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Bring all feathered or furry friends to the Guilford Green for a joint BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS with clergy from CEC and from St. George's on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

## Announcements

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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.



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)

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Coffee Hour sign-ups:** We need volunteers each week to help serve in this fun ministry of fellowship that follows service each Sunday! There's a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. *Hosts are needed for: all Sundays in September.*
- ❖ **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 out 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 is in need of 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
- ❖ **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. Rev. Mary Anne will gladly bring communion to you.
- ❖ **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.

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!