

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

January 26, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Welcome to Christ Church!

This faith community has worshiped on the Guilford Green since 1744; and it is continually made new by the Spirit and those who gather here. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, it's an honor to worship with you. Your presence is a blessing. May this gathering be a blessing to you.



Prelude Fugue in A BWV 536b

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. You might focus attention on your breath—noticing how the breath of life sustains you and connects you to God and to every living being in God's creation. (Genesis 2:7, John 20:22)

The Word of God

Hymn #409 The spacious firmament on high

Creation

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

Opening Acclamation

Prayer Book, p. 355

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Prayer Book, p. 355

All: **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 holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Song of Praise S-278 Glory to God in the highest

W. Mathias

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The people sit.

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of

them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, ***
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, ***
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens**
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just**
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,**
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, ***

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are

all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #533 How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!

Lyons

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

The Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Michael Sweeney

The Nicene Creed

The people stand as able.

**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.**

The Nicene Creed is a confession of faith from the 4th century that affirms the two great mysteries of Christian faith: that ultimate reality (God) is a community of love (the Trinity) and that God joins us in our life and suffering (the Incarnation of Jesus). We say it in unity with followers of Jesus around the world and across the ages.

**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.**

Prayers of the People: Form VI
The people remain standing or kneel.

Prayer Book, p. 392

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

A brief silence is observed before the prayers.

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

People: **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader: In our cycles of prayer, we pray for St. Gabriel's, East Berlin; St. Stephen's, East Haddam; All Saint's, East Hartford and the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader: For those on our parish prayer list: Ed, Liam, Debbie, Rick, Maria, Terry K., Noah Fujimoto Sands, Mary Feldtmose, Mark, Kim, Judy March, Nicky, Judy, Jeff, Chloe Negron, Michael Campanelli, Duke and Susan Oakley, and David Barker. And for those we name now, silently or aloud.

The people may add their own prayers and petitions.

Leader: Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Leader: For all who have died, especially those we name now, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The people may add their own prayers and petitions.

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: **Who put their trust in you.**

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The people may add their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
The people may stand or kneel. Silence is observed before the Celebrant begins the Confession.

All: **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant declares the Absolution.

The Peace

The people stand as able.

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet your
neighbors in the name of the
Lord, then all are seated.*

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Gifts can be made in the offering plate or using the QR code.

Thank you for your generosity.



Offertory anthem The Gyft of Charitie

C. Russell

The Doxology Hymn #380 (vs. 3)

Old 100th

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer B

Prayer Book, 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.**

The Celebrant continues:

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:

Sanctus S-128 Holy, holy, holy

W. Mathias

The people remain standing or kneel as 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,

All: **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,	as we forgive those
hallowed be thy Name,	who trespass against us.
thy kingdom come,	And lead us not into temptation,
thy will be done,	but deliver us from evil.
on earth as it is in heaven.	For thine is the kingdom,
Give us this day our daily bread.	and the power, and the glory,
And forgive us our trespasses,	for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S-155 Christ our Passover

G. Near

Invitation to Communion

Following the invitation, the people are seated.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Behold what you are; become what you receive.

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 How beautiful are the feet

G. F. Handel

Leila Mustakos, soprano

Postcommunion Prayer

Prayer Book, p. 365

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **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.**

The Blessing

Hymn #537 Christ, for the world we sing

Moscow

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Postlude in A BWV 536a

J. S. Bach

As you depart during the postlude, you are welcome to greet your neighbors, being mindful of those who are praying or listening to the music. Coffee hour follows the service in the Parish Hall.

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Drew Collins

Deacon: The Rev. Michael Sweeney

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Altar Guild: Virginia Syombathy

Usher: Carol Ivonna and Susan Warner

1st Reading: Laura Raymond

2nd Reading: Dennis Burke

Prayers of the People: Diane Pierpont

Chalice Bearers: Chris Robinson and David Kish
Coffee Hour: Outreach Committee
Counters: Melissa Lamoreaux and Winnie Seibert

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Wednesday, 12:00 -12:30 p.m. – Service of Holy Eucharist in the sanctuary

Thursday, 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Choir rehearsal in the Parish Hall

Friday, 12:00-12:30 p.m. – Music meditation in the sanctuary

Friday, 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Bible study in the Guild Room

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – Service of Holy Eucharist (*Sunday school & Nursery in lower level*)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual Parish Meeting – Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate our community, reflect on 2024, and look ahead to 2025, with updates on ministries, the presentation of the budget, and the election of new leaders.

3rd Sunday Evening Service & Supper – Feb. 16, 5:00 p.m. service & 6:00 p.m. supper

This candlelight Eucharist includes anointing for healing, a personal reflection in place of the sermon, and music accompanied by piano and other acoustic instruments.

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

Children & Youth

Sunday school for children ages 3+ meets at 10 a.m. most Sunday mornings from September-June. There is childcare available during the 10 a.m. service for children under 3. For more details contact Page Pelphrey at education@christchurchguilford.org.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The ECW is currently collecting money to send to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund in support of relief work in Los Angeles. There is a basket for donations in the Parish Hall.

Music

The choir is open to all and rehearses on Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. To learn more about music at Christ Church, contact Mark Sullivan at music@christchurchguilford.org.

Prayer Shawls & Home Communion

If you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home or would appreciate a prayer shawl knit with love by parishioners, please contact the office.

Weekly E-mail

You can sign up to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter on our website, or by calling the office or filling out a welcome card in your pew. The weekly email is our most detailed communication and a great way to keep track of everything going on at Christ Church.