

January 29, 2023

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford

10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist – Rite II

from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and *Enriching Our Worship 1*

Prelude: *Liebster Jesu* BWV 731

J. S. Bach

Opening Hymn #574 Before thy throne, O God, we kneel

St. Petersburg

**Before thy throne, O God, we kneel; give us a conscience quick to feel
a ready mind to understand the meaning of thy chastening hand;
what-e'er the pain and shame may be, bring us, O Father, nearer thee.**

**Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to all their due.
From love of pleasure, lust of gold, from sins which make the heart grow cold,
wean us and train us with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.**

**For sins of heedless word and deed, for pride ambitious to succeed,
for crafty trade and subtle snare to catch the simple unaware,
for lives bereft of purpose high, forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.**

**Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our inmost spirits purify;
consume the ill; purge out the shame; O God, be with us in the flame;
a newborn people may we rise, more pure, more true, more nobly wise.**

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

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

Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

**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.**

Hymn of Praise: Hymn #S-278 Glory to God

Matthias

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord, God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

Prayed together

**Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth:
Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Word of God

First Reading:

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 15* *Domine, quis habitabit? Prayed responsively*

1. GOD, 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 their heart.
3. There is no guile upon their tongue; they do no evil to their friend; *

- they do not heap contempt upon their neighbor.
4. In their sight the wicked is rejected, *
but they honor those who fear the LORD.
 5. They have sworn to do no wrong *
and do not take back their word.
 6. They do not give their money in hope of gain, *
nor do they take a bribe against the innocent.
 7. Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

Sequence Hymn #440 Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Liebster

Jesu

**Blessed Jesus, at thy word we are gathered all of hear thee;
let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear thee;
by thy teachings pure and holy, drawn from earth to love thee solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till thy Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded;
thou alone to God canst win us; thou must work all good within us.**

**Gracious Lord, thyself impart! Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open thou our ears and heart, help us by thy Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry thy Church upraises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.**

The Gospel

The Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

5:1-12

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
The Gospeller concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. People respond: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

Prayers of the People Form III

BCP, p.387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

We pray for the people and clergy of Christ & the Epiphany, East Haven; St. John's, East Windsor; Christ's Church, Easton; Holy Trinity, Enfield; and for The Church of Pakistan;
Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for our Presiding Bishop Michael, for our Bishops Jeff and Laura, for Rev. Mary Anne for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Remembering all peacemakers and peacekeepers, especially those serving in places torn by warfare, terror and gun violence:
We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Remembering our call to be good stewards of your Creation: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for all who have been commended to the prayers of the parish including Sue Shackford, Bill Cuddy, Verna Lilburn, Katherine Frydenborg, Josh L, Cynthia D, Russ and Joan, Brennie, and Cindy T; for all contending with COVID-19 disease, for medical caregivers who minister of your healing gifts; for all facing financial hardship because of the pandemic, and for those on your hearts,
(pause)
Have compassion on them and on all those who suffer from any grief or trouble.
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We pray for all who have died; especially for the repose of Thomas Lilburn.
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

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.

Silence.

Celebrant will add a concluding collect.

The Peace

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

Announcements and Greetings

The Holy Communion

The Offertory –

Offertory anthem: Walk humbly with your God

R. J. Powell

The Doxology: Hymn 380 (vs. 3)

Presentation of Gifts

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

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: 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:

All: **Sanctus S-128: Holy, holy, holy Lord**

Mathias

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant:

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 [] and] 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,

All:

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 from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-155: Christ our Passover

G. Near

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion**

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 anew 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: Swing low, sweet chariot

trad. spiritual, arr. H. T. Burliegh

Leila Mustakos, soprano

Post-Communion Prayer:

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

An Epiphany Blessing

Closing Hymn #556 Rejoice, ye pure in heart! vss. 1-3

Marion

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing

With all the angel choirs, with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, no blest mirth.

Refrain

Your clear hosannas raise, and alleluias loud;

while answering echoes upward float, like wreaths of incense cloud.

Refrain

Dismissal: Let us bless the Lord. *People: Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: Ricercare in C

J. Pachelbel

* *An Inclusive Language Psalter (based on the Psalms from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer)*

*The altar flowers this morning are in memory of
Thomas Lilburn from Verna Lilburn & family*

In Today's Worship

Celebrant: Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Usher: Kay Claiborn

1st Reading & Psalm: Laura Raymond

2nd Reading: Gabrielle Johnson

Prayers of the People & Communion Prayer: Marsha Brown

Chalice Bearers – Pat Daunic, Annie Rae

Solosit – Leila Mustakos

Altar Guild this Sunday – Kate Haggans, Katherine Krydenborg

Counters this week: Julie Gibson, Gabrielle Johnson

Upcoming Calendar Events



Sunday, January 29 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Celebrant, Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

9AM Morning Prayer - in the Parish Hall

10AM Holy Eucharist – (Streamed and in-person) with organ, hymns and choir

Sunday School (prek-4th), Youth (5th-8th) will meet

Coffee hour following service in the Parish Hall

Monday, January 30 – Bible Study – 5PM-6PM Email Cecelia Bellomy Parker at cbellomy15@gmail.com and she will send you the link.

Thursday, February 2 – Choir Rehearsal, 7PM in the Parish Hall

Friday, February 3 – Music Meditations, 12:00 in the Church

Sunday, February 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany, Celebrant Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

9AM Morning Prayer - in the Parish Hall

10AM Holy Eucharist – (Streamed and in-person) with organ, hymns and choir

Sunday School (pre-k-4th), Youth (5th-8th) will meet

Coffee hour following service in the Parish Hall

Faith Formation – following service

Monday, February 6

Outreach – 6:30PM via Zoom

Bible Study – 5-6PM via Zoom

Thursday, February 9

Choir Rehearsal, 7PM in the Parish Hall

Friday, February 10 – Music Meditations, 12:00 in the Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today from 3-5PM at the Community enter: All are invited to join together in peace at this community event **TOGETHER AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AND HATE**. Sponsored by our friends at Temple Beth Tikvah in partnership with the ADL.

On Tuesday, January 31st there will be a Blood Drive at East Creek Landing, 390 South Union Street in Guilford in Loving Memory of Ethan Song hosted by the Song family. 8:30am – 6:00pm. For an appointment please contact: 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter code Ethan

****2023 Pledges Due**

If you haven't returned your pledge for 2023, or completed your 2022 giving, please do so ASAP. We haven't met our goal yet, so we need everyone's participation in order to meet our budget and meet the requirements for a new rector. If you need another card please contact the office (admin@christchurchguilford.org) or call and we will send one to you. Year-end statements for 2022 will be sent out in the very near future.

Thursday, February 9 - Annual Reports due from Committee Heads

Sunday School news:

*The Sunday School students are in need of paper towel tubes. Please drop off in the office.

*Sunday School is looking for a nursery teacher. An ideal candidate must be at least 16 years old and love spending time with young children. Please contact Dorota Xeller at education@christchurchguilford.org.

Copies of the February – April **Forward Day by Day** can be found at the back of the church and on the shelf in the Rectory entryway. *Our very own Page Pelphrey is one of the authors in this edition.*

Coffee Hour Sign-Ups – There is a sheet in the Parish Hall for upcoming coffee hour sign-ups. We need you!

***Gift cards are always needed for groceries from Big Y or Stop and Shop. If you purchase a gift card, please include the activation receipt and put in the offering plate OR write a check to CEC with “Gift Card” in the memo line. All Gift cards and money will go to providing food for our neighbors through Guilford Social Services. And we can get \$5 for the church for each \$100 gift card from Big Y or Stop and Shop; \$6 from Bishops.
Are you the one to help set this up for us?

The Tag Sale Committee is now accepting items for the fall event. Bring your goods to the former Nursery Room outside of the Parish Hall entrance.

A reminder to wear your name tags during service. If you have lost yours and need a replacement or are a new parishioner please see Mardee Moore.

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.

Looking ahead:

Pancake Supper – Tuesday, February 21 – more details soon

Ash Wednesday: 12:00pm in-person, Livestream; imposition of ashes at 1pm from the steps of the Parish Hall, 7pm in-person, Livestream

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 26 following the 10AM service

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, to nurture our community and celebrate our faith.