

April 28, 2024

**Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Morning Prayer Rite II**

10:00 a.m.

Prelude: Lord Jesus Christ, be present now BWV 709

J. S. Bach

Opening hymn: #657 Love divine, all loves excelling

*Hyfrydol*

Opening Sentence:

BCP pg. 76

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians*

15:57

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 people stand*

The Invitatory and Psalter:

BCP pg. 80

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. Alleluia.**

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 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus*

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

**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. Alleluia.**

First Reading:

Acts

8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Second Reading:

1 John

4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

Canticle S 266: A Song to the Lamb *Dignus es*

C.

Hampton

***Antiphon:* Splendor and honor and kingly power are yours by right, O Lord our God.**

**Splendor and honor and kingly power are yours by right, O Lord our God.  
For you created everything that is,  
and by your will they were created and have their being. (*Repeat Antiphon*)**

**And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God, from every family, language,  
people, and nation, a kingdom of priests to serve our God. (*Repeat Antiphon*)**

**And so to him, who sits upon the throne, and to Christ the Lamb, be worship and  
praise, dominion and splendor, for ever and forevermore. (*Repeat Ant.*)**

The Gospel:  
15:1-8

John

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 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."

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

The Apostle's 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

The Offertory

[Click here to give](#)

[online](#)

Offertory anthem: Come, my Way, my Truth, my Light

R. Vaughan Williams

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 Suffrages Set B

BCP

pg. 98

Save your people, Lord and bless your inheritance;

**Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Day by day we bless you;

**We praise your Name for ever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**For we put our trust in you.**

In you, Lord, is our hope;

**And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 Peace

BCP

pg. 99

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of 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.*

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially for Debbie R, Shelley and John N, Debra Santi, Kathy Rodgers, Michelle, Chloe Negron, Noreen, Chris S., David Barker, Ignacio, Peggy Van Patten, Paul, Heather Henning, for the

safety of the children and families of St. Luke's Church & School in Haiti, and for all who face financial hardship because of the pandemic, and for those we name aloud or in silence here and at home; for the clergy and people of St. Mark's, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; St. James', New Haven; Parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy; and let us join the Anglican Communion in prayer for The Church of Bangladesh. *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: #296 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

*Engelbert*

The Dismissal

BPC

pg. 102 Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!



**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

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Postlude: Recessional op. 96.4  
Mathias

W.



*Today's Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of  
Phyllis & Michael Iaquinto, Mabel & Samuel Hubbard, Eleanor & Michael Cappiello  
Helen & Lawrence Scovill, Given by Leland & Madeline Hubbard*

***Participating In Today's Worship:***

*Officiant: Gabrielle Johnson*

*Music Director: Mark Sullivan*

*Psalm & 1st: Caroline Herrick*

*2nd: Jennifer Huebner*

*Ushers: Jean Meiselman & Mardee Moore*

*Coffee Hour Hosts: ECW*

*Counters: Gabrielle Johnson & Kathleen Jones (week of 4/29 - 5/3)*

## **NEW EVENT - Let your Talent Shine! on May 19**

We want to discover and celebrate the talents within our church community! Join us on May 19th for a special coffee after service event where congregational members can showcase your creativity. Whether you're an artist, author, photographer, crocheter, painter - or anything else! - we want to celebrate what you create. We will set up tables in the parish hall where work can be displayed. **Reserve your space and direct questions to Carol Iovanna at [carol.iovanna@yahoo.com](mailto:carol.iovanna@yahoo.com) or 203-453-2009.** She is also looking for volunteers to help with setup and coffee hour. Don't miss this opportunity to shine your special light!

## **WE'RE HIRING!**

It's important that families have childcare options at CEC all year round, so we plan to bring back childcare for this summer. We are looking for someone (or two) to be with the kids on Sunday mornings beginning in mid-June. It is paid and the perfect job for a high school or college student. If you know someone who is interested, please contact Lisa Ste. Marie at [warden@christchurchguilford.org](mailto:warden@christchurchguilford.org).

## **ECW NEWS**

**Sweet treats galore and more:** On sale now in the parish hall, graduation cardholders, \$2.00 each and available for several area high schools and college colors, handmade notecards with card holders, gift card holders, and yes sweet treats. Prices range from \$1 to \$5. Monies can be placed in the box on our table. Checks made payable to Christ Church ECW.

**Roses For Mothers:** Let's celebrate the special women who have graced our lives, past and present, and mark our calendars for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12, 2024. Order forms, along with envelopes, will be available starting today. Please ensure they are returned by Sunday, May 5th, either in the offering plate or via mail or office drop-off by Wednesday, May 8th, for names to be included in the Mother's Day bulletin. Any forms received after this date will have names listed in the May 19th bulletin. For those making donations, please make checks payable to Christ Episcopal Church-ECW and indicate "Roses" in the memo line. Only women joining us at coffee hour will receive a rose. Additionally, roses will be sent to homebound Christ Church women, and we kindly request volunteers to deliver them. Please contact Diane Link at (203) 458-1806 or [dwlink118@gmail.com](mailto:dwlink118@gmail.com) if you can help us. Thank you for your kindness and generosity in making this Mother's Day special for all the wonderful women in our congregation.

**Upcoming Event:** Annual June Luncheon on June 13th: Upcoming Event: Join us for our June 13th Annual ECW Luncheon at Quattro's Restaurant, located at 14 River Street, Guilford. Rhoda Whitman and Jean Meiselman, our Co-chairmen, have reserved a private room for this special occasion. More details to follow.

## **OUTREACH NEWS**

- ❓ **Guilford Food Bank:** Please put donations for the Guilford Food Bank in the box located in the vestibule of the church. Items currently needed are: whole grain cereals, crackers, hearty soup, gluten free products, household cleaner, soap, dish detergent, shampoo, toothpaste. Items commonly distributed at GFB: non sugared cold, hot cereal, 100% fruit juice, canned tomato products, peanut butter, mustard, shelf-life milk, coffee, tea, tuna, canned chicken, dried beans.
- ❓ **Supermarket Gift Cards** can be dropped off with the parish administrator.
- ❓ **Change Jar:** Look for the large jar on the table at the back of the church. The money collected will be used to support Outreach programs such as the New York Haiti Project, as well as programs closer to home.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### ❓ WELCOME TO YOUR NEW CLASSROOM

All students gather in the lower level at 10 AM for the blessing of the new space and decorating.

Lesson plans for today include children reading a Bible story followed by outdoor activities, while the upper school kids will engage in a discussion on "John is LOVE" at 10:30 AM.

Following that, all students will rehearse with Mark for the Mother's Day special.

#### Looking ahead:

**Sunday School Schedule:** May: 5, 12,19, June 2, 9

**Vacation Bible School -** Aug 12-16, 9am-12pm for kids K-4th grade

## ONGOING EVENTS

- ❓ **Music Meditations** - Every Friday at 12-12:30 pm: Come quiet your mind and feed your spirit with lovely organ music played by Mark Sullivan!
- ❓ **Choir Rehearsal** - Every Thursday at 7pm. All are welcome and can join at any time.
- ❓ **Bible Study** – Join Cecelia Bellomy Parker every Monday at 5 pm. Email Cecelia for the Zoom link at [cbellomy15@gmail.com](mailto:cbellomy15@gmail.com)

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## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES to CONNECT

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- ❓ **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 at the rear of the church before you leave.
- ❓ **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** is available to those who are not able to attend church in-person. Please call the church office at 203-453-2279 to schedule a Eucharistic Visit.

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.



*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.*