

February 5, 2023

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford

10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist – Rite II

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

Prelude: Prelude on *Christe, redemptory omnium*

C. H. H. Parry

Opening Hymn #372 Praise to the living God!

Leoni

**Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.
The one eternal God ere aught that now appears:
the first, the last, beyond all thought his timeless years!**

**Formless, all lovely forms declare his loveliness:
holy, no holiness of earth can his express.
Lo, he is Lord of all. Creation speaks his praise,
and every where above, below, his will obeys.**

**His Spirit floweth free, high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old; he speaketh still.
Established is his law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, on land.**

**Eternal life hath he implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.**

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

**Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins,
and give us the liberty of that abundant life
which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Word of God

First Reading:

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,

the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

Psalm 112:1-9* *Beatus vir* Prayed responsively

1. Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Sovereign One*
and have great delight in their commandments!
2. Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3. Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.
4. Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
5. It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.
6. For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
7. They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Sovereign One.
8. Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
9. They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him" —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

Sequence Hymn #601 O day of God, draw nigh

St. Michael

**O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power,
come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast, faith, calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth,
let there be light again, and set thy judgments in the earth.**

The Gospel

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

5:13-20

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

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospeller concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. *People respond:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

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.**

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 St. John's, Essex; the Fairfield parishes of St. Paul's, St. Timothy's, and Trinity/St. Michael's; and St. James', Farmington and The Anglican Church of Papua, New Guinea;

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 and 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 Terry Kron, Sue Shackford, Bill Cuddy, Katherine Frydenborg, Josh L, Cynthia D, Russ and Joan, and Brennie; 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;

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: Lord, speak to me that I may speak

Sullivan

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:

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: Simple Song (from *Mass*)

L. Bernstein

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 #610 Lord, whose love through humble service

Blaenhafren

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed,
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, But heart,
consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;

still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, our Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light,
in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

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

Postlude: Postlude

W. Mathias

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

*Today's altar flowers are in loving memory of
Allen and Jean Miller and Helen Burton by
Kathy & Fred Mauzey*

In Today's Worship

Celebrant: Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Usher: Carol Iovanna

1st Reading & Psalm: Tony Leonard

2nd Reading: Jennifer Huebner

Prayers of the People & Communion Prayer: Beth Brause

Chalice Bearers – Page Pelphrey, David Jones

Soloist – Leila Mustakos

Altar Guild this Sunday – Pat Daunic

Counters this week: Gabrielle Johnson, Gene Bishop

Upcoming Calendar Events



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, if you would like to join please contact Cecelia Bellomy Parker at cbellomy15@gmail.com and she will send you the link.

Thursday, February 9

Choir Rehearsal, 7PM in the Parish Hall

Annual Reports due to Parish Administrator

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

Sunday, February 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany, Celebrant Rev. Cathi Bencken

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

Monday, February 13

Bible Study – 5-6PM via Zoom, if you would like to join please contact Cecelia Bellomy Parker at

Cbellomy15@gmail.com and she will send you the link.

Wednesday, February 15

Staff Meeting – 3PM via Zoom

Thursday, February 16

Vestry – 7PM via Zoom

Choir Rehearsal – 7PM in the Parish Hall

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****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.

Office Volunteer – Thursdays from 9AM – 12Noon. Answer phone and take messages, greet guests & parishioners. Other light duties if needed. Contact Donna at 203-453-2279 or email admin@christchurchguilford.org

Sunday School news:

*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!

OUTREACH:

Celebrating 1 year with our Afghan Family – Saturday, February 18th from 2PM – 4PM at First Congregational Church, Guilford. All invited – children welcomed! Christ Church contributed a lot of money, household goods, volunteers, etc. and we want to celebrate everyone's efforts and the successful resettlement of the family. *If you are planning to attend please let Jennifer Huebner as they will need a count for food.*

***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:

February 21 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5p.m. – 7p.m. Welcome Back Pancake Supper after a two year hiatus! We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Parish hall for a Shrove Tuesday pancake feast to celebrate before we begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. **Come let the LaFatas cook and serve you** pancakes, sausage, bacon, and juice and then participate in the conflagration of the palms.

Ash Wednesday: 12:00PM Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes with organ and hymns, 1pm – 2pm Imposition of Ashes from the front steps of the church, 7PM Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes - organ, choir, soloist and hymns. The 7PM service will also be streamed at www.facebook.com/cecguilford

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,
while nurturing our community and celebrating our faith.*