

July 14, 2024 10 a.m.



**Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford**  
**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost      Holy Eucharist Rite II**  
The Rev. Michael Sweeney, celebrant

*Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church. If you are new or visiting, a special welcome to you. There are welcome cards at the end of each pew which can be placed in the offering plate at the offertory.*

*The community called Christ Church has gathered here since 1744; and it is made new every Sunday. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, it's an honor to worship with you. As a human being created in the image of God, you have something to teach this community about our Christian calling to love God and neighbor. Your presence is a blessing.*

*May this gathering be a blessing to you.*

Prelude: *Valet will ich der geben* BWV 736

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. There are prayers you may find helpful in the red prayer book, pages 814-835. Or you might simply focus your attention on the breath—the breath of Christ's peace, the breath of life by which the Spirit sustains every living being in God's interconnected creation.*

**Opening Hymn #594** Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates vs. 1-3, 5

*Truro*

*Sung by all, standing as you are able. All hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.*

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

***People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

*BCP, p. 355*

**Hymn of Praise S 280:** Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis*

R. Powell

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*The celebrant says the Collect.*

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace

and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *The Word of God*

*The people sit.*

First Reading:

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

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

The Psalm: Psalm 24 *Domini est terra*

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, \*  
the world and all who dwell therein.

2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas \*  
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

3 "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? \*

and who can stand in his holy place?"

4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, \*

who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,  
nor sworn by what is a fraud.

5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord \*

and a just reward from the God of their salvation."

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, \*

of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

and the King of glory shall come in.

8 "Who is this King of glory?" \*

"The Lord, strong and mighty,

the Lord, mighty in battle."

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

and the King of glory shall come in.

10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" \*

"The Lord of hosts,

he is the King of glory."

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in

heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

*All standing.*

**Sequence Hymn #671** Amazing Grace

*New Britain*

The Gospel according to Mark

6:14-29

*The Gospeller:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

*The Gospeller concludes:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Michael Sweeney

*All standing*

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

**Prayers of the People: Form III**

*BCP, p. 387*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

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 all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

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.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on 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 praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. In our cycles of prayer, we pray for the clergy and people of St. James, Poquetanuck; Christ Church, Redding; St. Stephens, Ridgefield; and for The Church of Ireland. We pray for those on the parish prayer list, including Noah Fujimoto Sands, BJ Wellman and family; Debbie R, Shelley and John N, Debra Santi, Kathy Rodgers, Michelle, Chloe Negron, Noreen, David Barker, Ignacio, Peggy Van Patten, Paul, Heather Henning, the family of Lois Creighton; and for those on your hearts.

*Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

**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.**

*Celebrant declares the Absolution*

The Peace  
*All stand.*

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

Announcements and Greetings

*The Holy Communion*

The Offertory

Offertory voluntary: There is a Spirit that Delights to Do No Evil N. Rorem

**The Doxology:** Hymn 380 (vs. 3)

*The people stand*

*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*

*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.**

*Celebrant* It is truly right, and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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:

**Celebrant and People – Hymnal S-125: Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus***

R. Proulx



*The people remain standing or kneel.*

*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,

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 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,  
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 Breaking of the Bread  
**Fraction Anthem #S-155** Christ our Passover

*BCP*, p. 364  
G. Near

Invitation to Communion: The Gifts of God for the People of God

*All are welcome to receive Communion or a blessing. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms against your chest. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. After receiving the bread, you may "intinct" (touch the edge of your bread to the wine) in the first chalice you come to; or you may consume the bread immediately and sip from the second chalice. If you do not wish to receive the wine, you may receive the bread alone. The priest has individually wrapped gluten-free wafers available on request. If having communion brought to your pew would be a help, please just let an usher know.*

Communion voluntary: Prelude on *Martyrdom* ('As longs the deer for cooling streams')

C. H. H. Parry

*The people stand or kneel.*

**Postcommunion Prayer:**

*BCP*, p. 365

**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.**

Blessing

*The people stand.*

**Closing Hymn #492** Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

*Finnian*

Dismissal: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Voluntary IX

W. Boyce

In Today's Worship

Celebrant: The Rev. Michael Sweeney, Priest-in-charge

Ushers: Kay Claiborn, Mardee Moore

1<sup>st</sup> Reading & Psalm: Diane Pierpont

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Jennifer Huebner

Prayers of the People: Kate Haggans

Chalice Bearers: Diane Kyle, David Kish

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Altar Guild: Diane Pierpont

Counters: Julie Gibson, Melissa Lamoreaux

**Beach Services:** Let's worship at the beach this summer! We've scheduled special late afternoon outdoor services in the Jacobs Beach pavilion in July and August. Father Michael will lead us in a 30-minute service of Holy Eucharist with hymns accompanied by the guitar. These services are very family-friendly and will have "hands-on" elements that engage children. Please note: these services are in addition to our 10am services!

Schedule: July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25

**Note for July 14 Beach Service:** we have the pavilion reserved from 1:30-4:30pm, so feel free to arrive early to enjoy some social time and beach play. Invite family and friends!

**Welcome Dinners with Father Michael:** There will be a number of dinners hosted by congregational members over the coming months to provide everyone the opportunity to spend time outside of church with Michael. These small dinners will help him get to know all of us on a more personal basis, learning more about our experiences and hopes for the future of our parish. Check the sign-up sheet in the back of the church for upcoming events hosted by Ted Sands and Caroline Herrick, and Vicky Reeve. We will continue to add more dates – stay tuned!

**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.

**Tag Sale:** We are now in full TAG SALE mode. Even though we are scaling back on the size of the sale this year, it is proving to be just as exciting. Please drop your donations off in the Room off the parish hall (known to many as the old Nursery). **PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF FURNITURE!!** We will accept small furniture items the week prior to the sale. Please remember that we also do not accept books of any kind, electronics or shoes. Please contact Rose Robinson with questions. [Rose.robinson5959@gmail.com](mailto:Rose.robinson5959@gmail.com)

**Outreach Committee:** There will be an Outreach Committee Meeting on July 31st at 6 pm in the Church Guild Room

**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:** 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.

**Change for Charity:** Your loose change makes a difference! Please empty any change you're carrying around in the jar at the back of the church. It is used for charities supported by our church.

**Food Bank:** 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 church 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.

**Online Giving:** Scan the QR code to connect to our website for online giving.

