

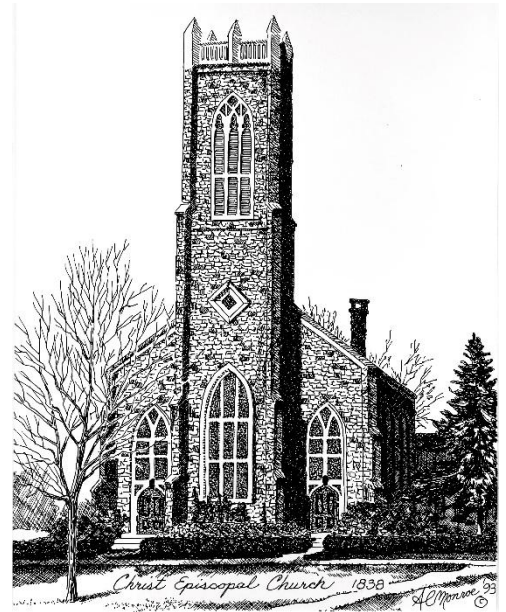
Third Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

March 23, 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 Prelude on Song 13

R. Vaughan Williams

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 #559 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Dulce Carmen

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

Opening Acclamation

Prayer Book, p. 351

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy endures for ever.**

The Celebrant continues:

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Confession of Sin

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as able. Silence is observed before the Celebrant begins the Confession.

All: **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.**

The Celebrant declares the Absolution.

Kyrie S-90 Lord, have mercy upon us
Sung by all, standing as able.

J. Merbecke

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

The people sit.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 63:1-8 *Deus, Deus meus*

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

**2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

**4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.**

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested

beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #148 Creator of the earth and skies

Uffingham

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

The Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

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

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Cathi Bencken

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.

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 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.

Prayers of the People: Form I

Prayer Book, p. 383

The people remain standing or kneel.

Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord,
saying "Lord, have mercy."

A brief silence is observed before the prayers.

Leader: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For our Bishops, Jeff and Laura, and in our cycles of prayer for St. Michael's, Litchfield; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale, and Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this town, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For those on our parish prayer list: Liam, Randy, Rick, Maria, Anita, Terry, Noah, Mark, Kim, Judy, Nicky, Jeff, Michael, David, Barry, Bobbi, Heather, Pamela, and Debbie. And for those we name now, silently or aloud.

The people may add their own prayers and petitions.

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially Joan Bernard Steward, and those we name now.

The people may add their own prayers and petitions.

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: **To thee, O Lord our God.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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 Wash me thoroughly

D. Halls

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 1

Enriching Our Worship 1, p. 57

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 truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

The people remain standing or kneel as the Celebrant continues:

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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

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

Fraction Anthem S-157 O Lamb of God

J. Merbecke

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 anthem O wait for the Lord

F. Mendelssohn

Gabrielle Johnson, soprano

Postcommunion Prayer

Enriching Our Worship, p. 70

The people kneel as able.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;**

**that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Solemn Prayer over the People

Celebrant: Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn #344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing
Sung by all, standing as you are able.

Sicilian Mariners

The Dismissal

Priest: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: O God, thou faithful God op. 122.6

J. Brahms

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

Preacher: The Rev. Cathi Bencken

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Michael Sweeney

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Altar Guild: Virginia Syombathy

Usher: Kay Claiborn

1st Reading: Leland Hubbard

2nd Reading: Donna Tafel

Prayers of the People: Julie Harris

Chalice Bearers: David Kish

Chalice Bearers: David Jones

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Service of Choral Evensong – March 25, 7:00 p.m.

The choirs of Christ Church and Trinity Church (Branford) will lead us in a celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation, featuring Anglican chant and beautiful choral music.

Game Night (it's not just Bingo)! – Saturday, April 5, 5-7 p.m.

We'll have separate tables for many games: card games, Mexican Train, Rummikub, Scrabble & Jr Scrabble. And feel free to bring a favorite game! Snacks welcome. We'll also do a group pizza order for those who want to make it dinner.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tuesday 4:00-5:00 p.m – Zoom Bible study

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*)

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)

ECW is sponsoring its annual "Fill A Bag" project from now until March 23. Gallon size bags with a list of toiletries needed are available in the back of the church. Filled bags can be returned to the back of the church or the Parish Hall. They will be delivered to the Chapel on the Green this spring.

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.

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.

