



The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

October 27, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford

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 Fantasy in C BWV 570

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.

The Word of God

Hymn #493 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Azmon

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

Opening Acclamation

BCP, p. 355

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

Song of Praise S202 Glory be to God

H. Willan

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-9

The people sit.

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 *In Converiendo*

1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.**

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #678 Surely it is God who saves me
Sung by all, standing.

College of Preachers

The Gospel

Mark 10:46-52

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

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

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Michael Sweeney

The Nicene Creed

The people stand.

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 VI

BCP, p. 392

The people stand or kneel.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For peace in the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, Sudan, and all places affected by conflict and violence.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

In our cycles of prayer, we pray for Holy Spirit, West Haven; St. Paul's, Westbrook and The Scottish Episcopal Church. For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Liam, Debbie, Rick, Maria, Terry K., Noah Fujimoto Sands, Jane Keilty, Nicky, Judy, Jeff, Chloe Negron, PJ and Maria Christina and David Barker. And for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, which we name silently or aloud.

All are invited to add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, especially those we name now silently or aloud.

All are invited to add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

All are invited to add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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

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.

The Peace

The people stand.

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Anthem Word of God, come down on earth

R. W. Dirksen

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

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 a 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:

Sanctus S114 Holy, holy, holy

H. Willan

The people remain standing or kneel as the Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again;**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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

BCP, p. 364

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

Fraction Anthem S 158: O Lamb of God

H. Willan

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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:

Leila Mustakos, soprano

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **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.**

The Blessing

Hymn #535 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

Paderborn

Sung by all, standing

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Ricercare in C

J. Pachelbel

The altar flowers were donated by Robert (Bob) Cairns in honor of the Cairns Family.

In Today's Worship

Celebrant: The Rev. Michael Sweeney

Usher(s): Diana Stovall

1st Reading & Psalm: Patti Kron

2nd Reading: Kate Haggans

Prayers of the People: Ed Seibert

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Altar Guild: Virginia Symbothy

Counters: Julie Gibson and Melissa Lamoreaux

Chalice Bearers: Caroline Herrick and Chris Robinson

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



Worship on Wednesdays at Noon: This is a simple, 30-minute service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I. The congregation sits up in the chancel area and receives communion at the altar rail. The service itself does not include music, but Mark Sullivan plays the organ from 11:45-12:00 as a time of meditation and prayer before the service.

Carnations for Veterans: On Sunday, November 10th we will celebrate and honor veterans and first responders. It is our annual Carnations for Veterans Sunday at Christ Church. Forms will be in church beginning Sunday, October 20th and continue through Sunday, November 3rd. This is a Free Will donation. Any monies collected through this will be donated to a local organization(s).

Evening Service and Pasta Supper: We would like to highlight one of our new offerings: the 5 p.m. service followed by a pasta supper on November 17th, (and subsequent 3rd Sundays of the month). The 45-minute service of Holy Eucharist will include music, mostly folk tune hymns like Be Thou My Vision, accompanied by piano and other acoustic instruments. In place of a sermon, there will be a brief reflection, usually offered by a member of the congregation, sharing a personal experience of the divine. And there will be candles. Lots and lots of candles. The prayers of the people will include an invitation to light votive candles as symbols of our prayers.

Outreach Committee: The committee is sponsoring Chapel on the Green in New Haven on Sunday, October 27th and meeting at the church on Sunday at 12:45 p.m. to take meals into New Haven and serve them. Please contact Caroline Herrick at caroline.herrick@gmail.com with any questions. To donate to the Episcopal Relief and Development's Hurricane Relief Fund, please go to <https://www.episcopalrelief.org>

Friday Bible Study: Bible study meets on Fridays from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Guild Room. This gathering is drop-in friendly, with no commitment required, and no homework. Currently, we are reading passages from the Gospel of Mark appointed for Sunday services this fall. Snacks are provided, and you are welcome to bring your lunch.

Prayers of the People: As part of our worship on Sunday morning, we pray for the needs and concerns of this community. If there is someone you would like us to include in our

prayers, please let us know by calling the office or sending an email to msweeney@christchurchguilford.org.

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.

Serving at Christ Church: We are all ministers. The work of loving God and neighbor, of leading worship and building community, belongs to each of us. We are always welcoming new readers, chalice bearers, ushers, and members of the choir, altar guild, and flower guild—to name just a few of our ministries! To learn more, contact Michael at msweeney@christchurchguilford.org.

Change for Charity: Your loose change makes a difference! The Change for Charity jar at the back of the church has collected over \$500 since its inception last September. We give that money to the charities supported by our church, including CT Violence Intervention Program, the Guilford Food Bank, and the New York Haiti Project.

Cookies and Crafts: Think Cookies, Cookies, and more Cookies! Soon it will be time to prepare for our annual "Cookies For Scholarships" at the Chili Supper and Market. Start now planning on what you will bake and donate for us to sell. We are very appreciative for your continued support.

ECW: The ECW Committee meets every 1st, 3rd & 4th Thursday from 10:30-1:00 in the Guild Room to create crafts to sell during the upcoming holidays and to enjoy fellowship with each other. You are welcome to join us, bring a sandwich and perhaps an extra one to share. Dessert and beverages provided. The 2nd Thursday each month is our regular business meeting with a carry-in-luncheon, potluck, and sometimes we will host a guest Speaker. Father Michael Sweeney joins us on Thursdays when his schedule permits.