

HOLY COMMUNION

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

April 28, 2024



***Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church** of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. We are a Protestant church which originated in England in the 16th Century. We join as a family of friends receiving Holy Communion every Sunday to empower ministry to our community. We are an inclusive fellowship welcoming those who may not feel affirmed elsewhere regarding gender, orientation, or race. There is a place for you among us at Christ Church. Join with us.*

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Votive candles: Everyone is invited to light a candle on the votive stand at the front of the church as a way of making your invisible prayers visible.

Personal Prayers

PRAYER OF ST. THERESE: May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love. It is there for each and every one of us. Amen.

For Encouragement: Holy One, please help me to not lose heart. When I look around me, it is easy to get overwhelmed and discouraged. When that happens, I will take heart, because You are renewing me. Help me to remember all the ways You are present through Christ, my Lord. Amen.

For Patience: God, thank You for allowing me to experience trials and thank You for refining my faith through them. When I go through hard situations, please lead me away from temptation by giving me the strength to endure. Remind me of the joy set before me: the purification of my character and eternity spent with You. Through Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Generosity: God of All, from whom all things come, and all things will return: make me aware of the ways I value material things over right relationships with others. I want to see you at work in all things without desiring to possess them that I may live in you, O Christ, in perfect freedom. In your holy Name I pray. Amen.

Growth: O God, you know me better than I know myself: make me aware of the ways in which past abuse and neglect compels me to seek approbation from others rather than trust in the value of my own loveliness, that rather than distancing myself from others, I may live freely with those as we make the journey together. I ask this in the strong and gentle name of Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Healing: Ever-present God of compassion: you know from afar my rising up and my lying down. Grant that I may accept what is past, leaving it with you, that I may live without fear or harsh self-judgment, to focus freely on your work of healing in the world. Amen.

Humility: Gracious God, whose will it is to bring all creation into unity in your Son, Jesus Christ: make me daily disown my overly competitive instincts, that I may “seek peace and pursue” it to welcome all into my life, to the honor and glory of your Name. Amen.

About Holy Communion: *We trust Christ to be truly present in the bread and wine. Through our praise and thanksgiving in the Holy Spirit we are united in His saving grace to the glory of God. Ours is an open table of Holy Communion. All persons, children and adults, are welcomed to receive. If you wish to learn more about being baptized, speak with Father Emanuel.*

Receiving Holy Communion: *Come forward as directed by the ushers. Stand or kneel at the altar rail with palms extended to receive the bread. We offer the wine of Holy Communion by common cup or by dipping the wafer into the cup of wine (intinction.) If you would prefer a blessing, cross your arms over your chest to signal the Priest.*

(All stand.)

Opening Hymn

379

God is love: let heaven adore him

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
3 God is Love; and though with blind - ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Easter Acclamation

Priest: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People: *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Collect for Purity

Priest:

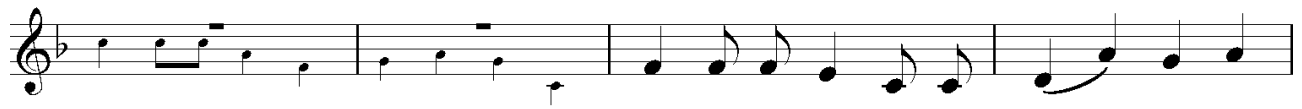
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Gloria

S280

Glory to God in the highest



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



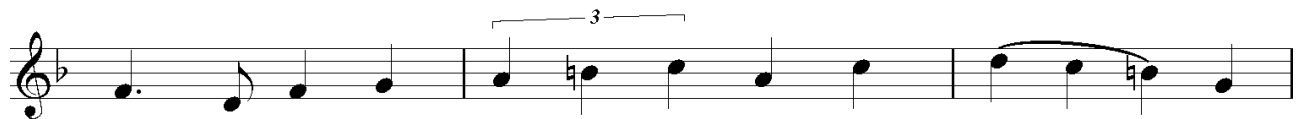
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy



on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,



you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Priest: Let us pray.

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.***

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE READINGS

A Reading from Acts 8:26–40

(Lector)

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.

Reader: Here ends the Reading.

(Silence for reflection follows the reading.)



(Congregation and Choir, seated)

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

Psalm 22:24–30

Deus, Deus meus

24 My praise is of him in the great as'sembly; *

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

25 The poor shall eat and be satis'fied,

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 be'fore 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 be'fore 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 un'born *

the saving deeds that he has 'done.

(Silence for reflection follows the Psalm.)

A Reading from 1 John 4:7–21

(Lector)

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.

Reader: Here ends the Reading.

(Silence for reflection follows the reading.)

(Standing as able)

Sequence Hymn

513

Like the murmur of the dove's song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the



chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and



wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -



might: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
sign: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
pare: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

(Seated)

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.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

(Several moments of silence for reflection follow the sermon.)

(Standing, as able.)

The Nicene Creed

Minister: Let us rise to confess our faith in the words of the 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 Prayers of the People

(Silence)

Minister: With all our heart, soul and mind, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, for peace among faith traditions, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; Dorsey, Frank and Andrew, our bishops retired, and Phil, our priest; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We give thanks for the work of honorable elected officials who oppose the schemes of those who demean our citizens, threaten our freedoms, and pervert justice by undercutting the rule of law and the rules of human decency. Save us, we pray, that our government uphold its sacred duty to benefit all your people. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for the leaders of the nations and for Joe, our President; Henry, our Governor, and for all in authority in our community, that peace through justice prevail, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We give thanks for those who serve in public safety, social services, education, and for counselors, medical professionals, and those whose work puts them in danger. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for justice and relief for the poor, the oppressed, the addicted, and the homeless in our community and for those who minister to them. We pray for the starving, for those suffering from the trauma of terrorism in this and every land; for refugees and the embattled in Africa, Ukraine, the Donbas, Israel, and Palestine; for prisoners, those imprisoned unjustly and for those enduring social rejection in this and every country, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We give thanks for those serving in the armed forces and for the contribution of our veterans and those who minister to them. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for the aged, infirm, the lonely, those undergoing medical treatment, rehabilitation and recovery, and all who care for them especially, **Allen, Diane McGuirt, Rebecca Bryson, Wayne, Amelia Davis, Buck Sistare, Lisa Stamper*, Linda Tiffany, Tom Brown, Linda Brown, Mike Lamberton*, Tony Higgins, Pam Giardiello*, Earle Holmes*, Sandra Caldwell, Joan Bixby*, Aubrey Crawford*, Father Bill Walters, Randall Robinson.** Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We give thanks for the lives of those who rest from their labors in your loving arms and those whom we name before you. *(silence)* Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for this parish and for St. Philip's, Greenville; St. James, Greenville; and The 5th Grade Bridge Retreat. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and those celebrating anniversaries. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Just and Eternal God, Creator of All: may we be moved away from the use of toxic substances destroying a sustainable future. Convince us, together with government and industry, to work earnestly so the earth remains habitable for present and future

generations—especially for the poorest of the poor who are now most afflicted. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Priest:

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may live in peace and love following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. ***Amen.***

Confession & Absolution

Priest:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection.

Priest and ***People:***

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father: in your compassion; forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

(All stand.)

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence:

(We are seated)

Priest: I ask you brothers and sisters, to offer your selves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your true and proper worship. *Romans 12:1*

Offertory: Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life Ralph Vaughan Williams



The Presentation of the Offering

taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 & Benedictus S129 Robert Powell (*Sung by all.*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. Three triplet markings are present, each consisting of a bracket over three notes with a '3' above it. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Priest 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. 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,

Priest and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Priest continues

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 Mary, the Mother of our Lord and 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 pray,

The Lord's Prayer

Priest and **People:**

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 Priest breaks the consecrated Bread.*



The Fraction Anthem :

WLP 876

(Cantor and Congregation sing together.)

Antiphon
Cantor, then all

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing

Fine Verses

— of the bread.

1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -
2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -

All repeat Antiphon

ia, is the com - mun-ion of the Bod - y of Christ.
ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come, for all is prepared.

Music at the Communion:

(Standing or kneeling.)

Post-Communion Prayer

*Priest and **People**:*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.





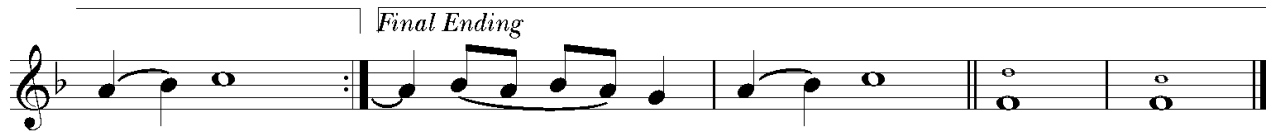
We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. _____
 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death. _____
 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. _____
 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows _____



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold; _____
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life _____
 The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God. _____
 as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood. _____



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy. _____
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. _____ Al - le -
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One. _____
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing: _____



lu - ia! _____ Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

The Blessing

Priest: May the Light of Christ fill your heart, soul, and mind that we, and all the world, be one; and the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fellowship time is in the hospitality room following the service.

Congregation is also welcomed to remain in prayer following the dismissal.

Some of the recent guests and/or new members of our congregation: Bud & Carole Smith, Missy & Barry Norman, Chuck & Cheryl Maguire, Tom & Karen Quinn, Ava Jopson, Linda Miller, Mary Lynn Ford, Tom Ennis, Mildred Wilmot – Nicki Robertson’s aunt, and Missy McPherson – Nicki Robertson’s cousin

Welcome them as you would family!

TODAY

The Flowers are provided today by Philip McGuirt in honor of Dana Lee Walters and the Christ Church Choir.

Holy Communion on YouTube: Christ Episcopal Church Lancaster SC

All services can be found at the following:

<https://www.youtube.com/@christepiscopalchurchSC>

Look for Christ Episcopal Church Lancaster SC on YouTube and subscribe.

THIS WEEK

Cub Scouts meet Mondays 6:45 pm

Support Group meets Mondays 5:30 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am

Choir Practice meets each Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Community Playhouse meets Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 6:00 pm

Church/Nave is Reserved for Rehearsals every Saturday from 10:00 am–1:00 pm

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Please contact the church office if your birthday or anniversary is this week.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

(* Denotes member) (Please contact office to add/remove names)

Allen, Diane McGirt, Rebecca Bryson, Wayne, Amelia Davis, Buck Sistare,
Lisa Stamper*, Linda Tiffany, Tom Brown, Linda Brown, Mike Lamberton*,
Tony Higgins, Pam Giardiello*, Earle Holmes*, Sandra Caldwell, Joan
Bixby*, Aubrey Crawford*, Father Bill Walters, Randall Robinson

There are forms for Parishioner information at each entrance. Please complete one and place in the offering plate so your information can be put in the Parish Directory.

If you wish to join our fellowship of love and service, please contact Father Emanuel at 843-325-3362 or orionrigelstar@gmail.com to arrange a visit

Please remember not to take vase liners if you take flower arrangements.

There are plastic vases in the Sacristy for this purpose.

Also, if you would like to donate vases you no longer use, please place them in the Sacristy.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

Mission Statement –

*At Christ Episcopal Church we gather to worship, pray, sing, and share so together
we may serve our community and the world.*

Sheltered of Lancaster: Sheltered's mission is to offer hope, create opportunity, and transform the lives of men, women, and children who are trying to break free from the cycle of homelessness and dependency through the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please mark "Sheltered" on the memo line of your check.

HOPE: We are collecting peanut butter (28 oz preferred) and jelly/jam each week going forward as we have received word from HOPE that they are always in need of these items. Please remember HOPE prefers plastic containers. Place your donated items in the shopping cart. Grocery bags are also needed. As always, other items are welcomed including: grits, oatmeal, jelly, rice, pasta (any type), spaghetti sauce, boxed instant potatoes, 64 oz. juice (any type.)

Ray's Backdoor Ministry: Christ Church will continue to support the ongoing needs of this ministry. Please put Ray's Backdoor on the memo line of your check. God bless you richly for your ongoing contributions.

LARS: LARS (Lancaster Area Ride Service) is designed to provide Lancaster County residents of all ages access to transportation. The mission of the service is to provide Lancaster County residents of all ages access to a safe and reliable transportation system. Please mark "LARS" on the memo line of your check.

Cans for Kitties Project: Please remove labels and separate aluminum from steel cans, bag them and place them in the labeled green trash bin located beside the storage building behind the church. This ministry benefits our feline friends by providing spay/neuter services for cats.

Catherine of Siena 1380

Commemorated on April 29th



Catherine Benincasa was the youngest of twenty-five children of a wealthy dyer of Siena. At six years of age, she had a remarkable vision that probably decided her life's vocation. Walking home from a visit, she stopped on the road and gazed upward, oblivious to everything around her. "I beheld our Lord seated in glory with St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. John." She went on to say, later, that the Savior smiled on her and blessed her.

From then on, Catherine spent most of her time in prayer and meditation, despite her mother's attempts to force her to be like other girls. To settle matters, Catherine cut off her hair, her chief beauty. The family harassed her continually; but in the end, convinced that she was deaf to all opposition, her father let her do as she would: close herself away in a darkened room, fast, and sleep on boards. Eventually, she was accepted as a Dominican postulant.

Catherine had numerous visions, and was also tried most severely by loathsome temptations and degrading images. Frequently, she felt totally abandoned by the Lord. At last, in 1366, the Savior appeared with Mary and the Heavenly Host, and espoused her to himself, so ending her years of lonely prayer and struggle. She became a nurse, as Dominicans regularly did, caring for patients with leprosy and cancer whom other nurses disliked to treat.

Opinion in Siena was sharply divided about whether she was a saint or a fanatic, but when the Bishop of Capua was appointed her confessor, he helped her to win full support from the Dominican Mother House. Catherine was a courageous worker in time of severe plague; she visited prisoners condemned to death; she constantly was called upon to arbitrate feuds and to prepare troubled sinners for confession.

During the great schism of the papacy, with rival popes in Rome and Avignon, Catherine wrote tirelessly to princes, kings, and popes, urging them to restore the unity of the Church. She even went to Rome to press further for the cause.

Besides her many letters to all manner of people, Catherine wrote a Dialogue, a mystical work dictated in ecstasy. Exhausted and paralyzed, she died at the age of thirty-three.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

DATE	GATHERING PLACE CLEAN-UP	COMMUNION ASSISTANT/ CHALICE	ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	USHERS/ GREETERS	TELLERS	ALTAR GUILD	LECTOR	VIDEO OPERATOR
Sunday, April 28, 2024	Lynn Blackmon	Linda Baker	TBA	Mike Sistare, Jake Wilson & Melton Mayfield	Ernest Jenkins and Philip McGuirt	Mike & Kathy Sistare	Kathy Sistare	Bill Bixby

**All worship participants please make presence known before service to
Father Emanuel.**

Priest: Phil Emanuel
Parish Musician: Dana Lee Walters
Security: Ernest Jenkins

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17, Psalm 98

PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY

DATE	GATHERING PLACE CLEAN-UP	COMMUNION ASSISTANT/ CHALICE	ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	USHERS/ GREETERS	TELLERS	ALTAR GUILD	LECTOR	VIDEO OPERATOR
Sunday, May 5, 2024	Pam Giardiello	Caroline Oliver	TBA	Mike Sistare, Jake Wilson & Melton Mayfield	Mike Sistare & Lynn Blackmon	Nicki Robertson & Philip McGuirt	Ernest Jenkins	Jeff Bixby

Father Emanuel is available for conversation regarding matters of faith and life at a place of your choosing and at times by appointment. He may be reached via the following: orionrigelstar@gmail.com or 843-325-3362.

SERMON: The sermon is available upon request. Please contact the church office if you would like a copy.



Bishop of the Diocese of Upper S. C.

The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards

Priest

The Reverend Philip G. Emanuel

Parish Musician

Dana Lee Walters

Digital Ministry

Jeff Bixby, Bill Bixby, Linda Baker, Wayne Johnson

Vestry Members

Lynn Blackmon ('25), Joan Crawford ('26), Sally Higgins ('24),
Robert Horton ('24), Ernest Jenkins–Senior Warden ('26), Philip McGuirt ('24),
Mike Sistare–Junior Warden ('25)

Treasurer

Linda Baker

Clerk

Pam Giardiello

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Father Emanuel may be reached at 843-325-3362 or orionrigelstar@gmail.com



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