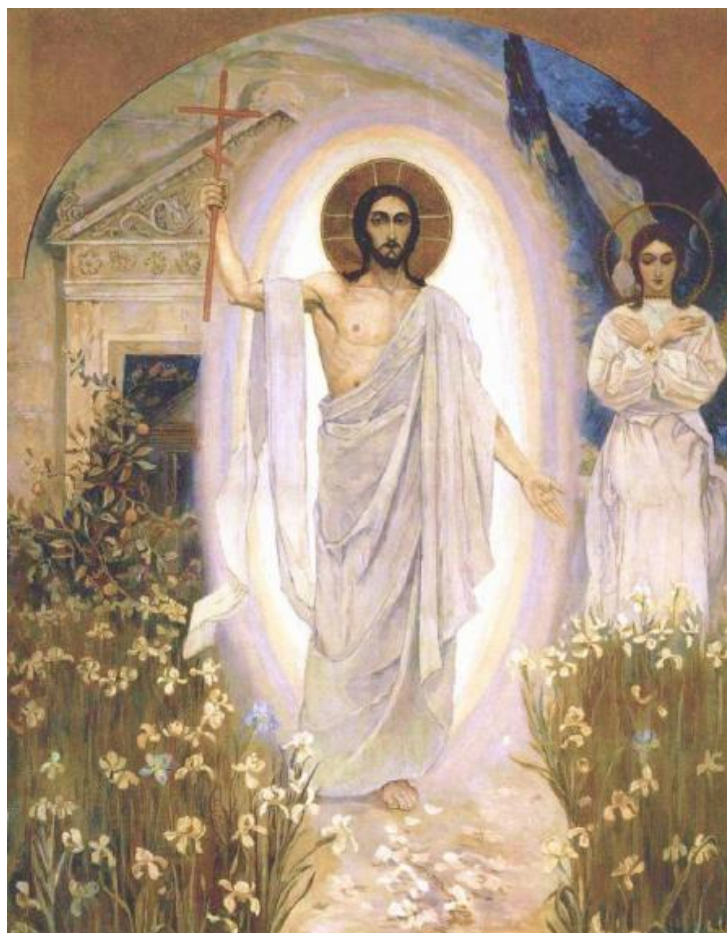


# St. Christopher's at the Crossroads Episcopal Church



The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Assisting Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert, Assisting Bishop  
The Rev. Shirley Porter, Rector

**The First Sunday of Easter**  
April 4, 2021

Welcome to St. Christopher's!

By direction of the Bishop, we must observe the following restrictions:

- If you have a fever or feel ill, do not enter the church.
- We require people who are not members of a family group to maintain at least 6 feet distance from others.
- If you haven't already registered with us, we will obtain contact information from you for contact tracing.
- Enter the church through the main aisle; exit through the doors at the courtyard.
- You must wear a mask throughout the service. Exception: briefly as you consume the host.
- When the service is over, please exit the church immediately.

## Prelude

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with old leaven,  
neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness,  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

*Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more;  
death hath no more dominion over him.  
For in that he died, he died unto sin once;  
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.  
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin,  
but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Christ is risen from the dead,  
and become the first fruits of them that slept.  
For since by man came death,  
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die,  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

### **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Page 760, BCP** ***Confitemini Domino***

1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.

2

Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
“His mercy endures for ever.”

14

The LORD is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.

15

There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:

16

“The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”

17

I shall not die, but live, \*  
and declare the works of the LORD.

18

The LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.

19

Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.

20

“This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter.”

21

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.

22

The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.

23

This is the LORD’S doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24

On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

### **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     *Thanks be to God.*

## **The Gospel**

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

### **John 20:1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary

Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

Rev. Shirley Porter

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 St. Christopher's

### The Prayers of the People

In joy and hope, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That the isolated and persecuted may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, this is the day on which your blessed Son burst the bonds of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it: Grant that we may be risen with him and walk from this day forth in newness of life; and bring us at last to the joy of your eternal kingdom. Hear us, O Father, for the sake of him who is the first-born from the dead, and is now alive for evermore, even Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*          *And also with you.*



*The Exchange of the Peace will be touch free and while maintaining at least six feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)*

## The Holy Communion

### **Eucharistic Prayer A (Page 361)**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has 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:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

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:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is 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.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and*

*strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come as you are, become what you receive.

*The Bishop has suspended the use of the common cup during the pandemic, so we will only distribute the bread. The Episcopal Church believes that receiving the bread alone is full reception of both the Body and Blood of Christ. The bread has been previously consecrated and is safe from infection. The ministers will pass among you and provide you the bread in a sealed envelope.*

### **Prayer after Receiving**

*Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food in the name of Jesus; 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.*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

### **Sending Forth**

*I serve a risen Savior,  
He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living,  
whatever others say;  
I see His hand of mercy,  
I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him  
He's always near.*

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!*

*He walks with me and talks with me  
along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.*

*In all the world around me  
I see His loving care,  
And though my heart grows weary  
I never will despair;  
I know that He is leading  
through all the stormy blast,  
The day of His appearing  
will come at last.*

*Rejoice, rejoice. O Christian,  
lift up your voice and sing.  
Eternal hallelujahs  
to Jesus Christ, the King!  
The hope of all who seek Him,  
the help of all who find,  
None other is so loving,  
so good and kind.*

## **Postlude**

---

*The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.*