

# 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 Second Sunday of Easter**  
April 11, 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.

*I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.*

*In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus.*

*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.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

### **Acts 4:32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Psalm 133 Page 787 BCP**

***Ecce, quam bonum!***

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

## 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*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 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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**

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the Church, your body in the world. Bless our bishops, clergy, lay leaders and congregations with the courage to lead in these times, and sustain them with your love. Deliver us, we pray, from the temptations of power, bondage of racism, class and consumerism, and all that keeps us from embracing our true shared identity as your beloved children. Free us from fear, that we may bear witness to your liberating love in this broken world.

Lord of life and love,

***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for this Nation: for our President, our elected representatives and all who have the power to make change. Open their hearts, and ours, to see and address the human needs of those suffering from the effects of this Covid-19 pandemic. Guide our leaders toward policies that uphold the dignity of our most vulnerable communities, especially immigrants and persons of color, who are bearing so much of the suffering. Open their eyes, and ours, to see all who are ill, and all who have lost their livelihoods, as fellow human beings, not as expendable statistics.

Lord of life and love,

***Hear our prayer.***

We ask your protection for workers we often ignore, whose work sustains our whole society, and who are now at risk: for warehouse, grocery and delivery workers, those who harvest and process our food, and all workers vulnerable to contagion. Turn the hearts of employers and policy makers to provide for their safety and security, and give us all grace to be mindful of one another's safety.

Lord of life and love,  
***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for healing for all who are affected by this pandemic: for all who are ill, that they may receive prompt and appropriate care, and for those who are dying alone, that they may find peace and comfort.

Lord of life and love,  
**Hear our prayer.**

For the scientists and physicians throughout the world who are working toward treatments and vaccines, that their work may bear fruit in ways that are safe, timely and fully available to all.

Lord of life and love,  
**Hear our prayer.**

For our local community here: for those who are isolated, lonely or fearful, and for all in need, that they may be sustained in faith, hope and love.

Lord of life and love,  
***Hear our prayer.***

For all who tend to the sick and for their families, especially doctors and nurses and first responders, that they may find continued strength and support, and that they may be protected with needed equipment and needed leave and compensation.

Lord of life and love,  
***Hear our prayer.***

For all who have died, especially for those in this time who have died alone, that they may be held in the company of all your saints. And for those who mourn loved ones they have not been able to accompany in their last hours.

Lord of life and love,  
***Hear our prayer.***

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus 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.*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### **Sending Forth**

*We walk by faith, and not by sight;  
No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke;  
But we believe Him near.*

*We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice,  
And cry, "My Lord and God!"*

*Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound,  
To call on you when you are near,  
And seek where you are found.*

*That, when our life of faith is done;  
In realms of clearer light,  
We may behold you as you are,  
With full and endless sight.*

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