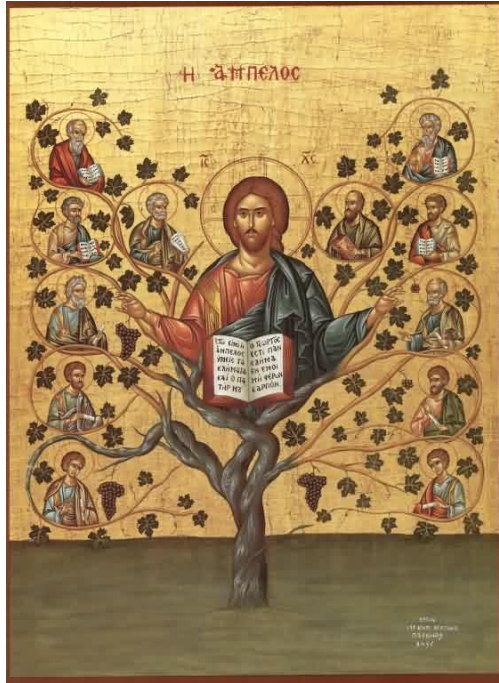


St. Christopher's at the Crossroads Episcopal Church



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 Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 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.

Hymn 400

*All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beams,
pale silver moon that gently gleams,*

*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Dear mother earth, you day by day
unfold your blessings on our way,
O praise him, Alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:*

*All you with mercy in your heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing now: Alleluia!
All you that pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, and cast on him your care:*

*Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:*

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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [10:44-48]

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 98

Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

A Reading from the first letter of John [5:1-6]

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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 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, and for those working to equitably distribute them, 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, and for those born and not yet born, 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.

Gracious God, today we remember the gift of mothers,

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—may we celebrate with them

To those who lost a child this year—may we mourn with them

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains—may we appreciate them

To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—may we mourn with them

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with tears and disappointment—help us walk with them. Forgive us when we say foolish things to them.

To those mothers who are living with the challenges of children with special needs, grant us the wisdom to gently support them.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms—help us pray for them for they are needed

To those who have warm and close relationships with their children—may we celebrate with them

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with their children—may we grieve with them

To those who lost their mothers this year—may we mourn with them

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of their own mother—may we acknowledge their pain

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—help us rejoice for we are better for having them in our midst

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—may we grieve and rejoice with them

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—help us anticipate with them

In Christ's name we pray. 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.

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.

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; 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

Hymn 577

*God is love, and where true love is
God himself is there.*

*Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling.
Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting.
Let us fear and love him, holy God eternal.
Loving him, let each love Christ in one another.*

*When we Christians gather, members of one Body,
let there be in us no discord but one spirit.
Banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel.
Christ, our God, be always present here among us.*

*Grant us love's fulfillment, joy with all the blessed,
when we see your face, O Savior, in its glory.
Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,
be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.*

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