

Saint Christopher Episcopal Church
Fairborn, Ohio
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio



Welcome!

Be thoughtful, be silent, and be reverent,
for this is the house of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord.

During the service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another during fellowship

So we may become friends and be strangers no longer.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2017

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Ten o'clock in the morning

Sunday School - 9:15 AM and 10:00 AM

Nursery Care - 10:00 AM

Enter to Know Christ – Leave to Make Him Known

*~ Hail Guest! We ask not what thou art; If Friend, we greet thee, hand and heart;
If Stranger, such no longer be; If Foe, our love shall conquer thee! ~*

All as are able – standing

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for Purity

(in unison)

**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.**

The Hymn of Praise

(in unison)

**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**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the
supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The First Reading **Micah 6:1-8**

In the OT, the relationship between God and his chosen people is often characterized in legal terminology as a covenant relationship. These covenant stipulations are prefaced by the assertion that Yahweh, the Lord, is the God who rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians (20:1-2). In response to this gracious act of deliverance, the Lord expects the Israelites to commit themselves to living out the Ten Commandments. It is this covenant that stands as the backdrop to today's reading.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 15 *Domine, quis habitabit? Quam dilecta!*

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
 who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
 who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
 but he honors those who fear the Lord.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
 and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
 nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
 shall never be overthrown.

The Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

In last week's reading from 1 Corinthians, Paul registered his concern over cliques that had arisen and were causing discord and division within the Corinthian church. Paul began to address those divisions by refocusing the Corinthians' attention on Jesus and, specifically, upon his crucifixion. This emphasis continues in today's reading where Paul characterizes the crucified Christ as the wisdom and power of God.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

All as are able - standing

Celebrant **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

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

The Holy Gospel **Matthew 5:1-12**

Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount. It is important to recognize that the expression 'the kingdom of heaven' in Jesus' proclamation does not refer to heaven, the place where God resides or where people go when they die. The kingdom of heaven is not a place but a socio-political reality. When Jesus announces that the kingdom of heaven has arrived, he is announcing the beginning of God's reign upon the earth. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus offers a vision for what life in a world ruled by God looks like.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Ruth B. Paulus

The Nicene Creed

All as are able – standing.

**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

All as are able standing

God's Foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. So let us pray to the Lord, saying, "For your blessing and guidance, we give you thanks."

God, bless your Church. May our souls hunger and thirst for righteousness. Give us the grace to do those things you require of us: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

Silence

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

God, bless the people of this and every nation. You make foolish the wisdom of the world; we pray that our leaders find their wisdom in you. Teach us to be merciful and open us to receive mercy from others. We pray for our president, the vice president, all the Cabinet and the chief justice and associate justices of the Supreme Court, for the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to find Your peace and direction, and for these men and women to act and lead according to Your Word, to receive the wisdom of God, to act in humble obedience to that wisdom and for the power of God to flow in their lives.

Silence

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

God, bless your creation. Your mighty, creative voice echoes through the mountains. We offer back to you all the many gifts that spring forth from this earth.

Silence

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

God, bless our local community. May we be a people who do no evil to our friends, who heap no contempt upon our neighbors.

Silence

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

God, bless the poor in spirit with the inheritance of your kingdom. You choose what is weak in this world to shame the strong. Be the source of life for all those suffering and sick. Hear our prayers for those in pain and distress: especially

Toni, Carol, Daphne, Ed, Sheila, Mara and Doc Chandler,
Sandy, Edgar, David, Bill, Jean, Melissa, Bob, and Laurie,
Roger, Margie, Melody, Thom, Tracy and her baby.

Invite the congregation to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence.

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

God, bless the dying and the dead. May their reward be great in heaven. Give to those who now mourn the blessing of your comfort. Especially we remember this day: children and loved ones, those who have lost their lives to violence, and those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country (6867).

Silence

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

O God, we pray for those matters that concern us, especially

- the mission of the Church of St. Christopher's as you call us,
- for wellbeing of teachers and students everywhere,
- for all those who are refugees, especially those from Syria.
May they find protection, safety and peace.
- for those held in captivity against their will and those who are martyred and their families and loved ones who mourn them..
- for the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad,
- for those whose faith is compromised.

Here other intercessions may be offered, followed by silence.

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

We pray for St. Christopher's Recasting Team, for the will to seek the Spirit's guidance, and for the wisdom to follow where the Spirit leads.

Silence

For your blessing and guidance,

We give you thanks.

“Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Wisdom on the Journey to New Life” *(in unison)*

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity.

Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus’ way of love.

Open our hearts to discern Your direction in our lives.

Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another.

May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology.

Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day.

Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation.

Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

All as are able, kneeling.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbor and ourselves.

Minister and People

(in unison)

Merciful God...

For the things we have done that we regret, forgive us

For the things we have failed to do that we regret, forgive us

For all the times we have acted without love, forgive us

For all the times we have reacted without thought, forgive us

For all the times we have withdrawn care, forgive us

For all the times we have failed to forgive, forgive us

For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid, forgive us

For unfinished tasks and unfulfilled hopes, God of all time, forgive us and help us to lay down our burden of regret.

Celebrant: May God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All as are able standing.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Prayer for a Birthday

(said in unison)

Watch over your child N., O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer for an Anniversary

(said in unison)

May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings, slow to make enemies, and quick to make friends.

May the saddest day of your future be no worse, than the happiest day of your past...

May you both live as long as you want, And never want as long as you live.
 Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away.
 But never forget to remember the blessings that come each day.
 Here's to health to all those that we love,
 health to all those that love us,
 and health to all those that love them
 May the gracious God hold you both in the palm of His hands.
 And, today, may the Spirit of Love find a continual dwelling place in your hearts. Amen

The Healing Prayers are offered at the back of the church during Holy Communion.

The Liturgy of the Table



The Celebrant says

What does the Lord require of you?
 God has told you what is good: to do justice,
 and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

All as are able - standing

The Doxology

Celebrant All things come of you, O God,
People **And of your own do we return to you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

All as are able - remain standing.

The Sursum Corda

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.**

The Celebrant continues

All as are able – kneeling, or standing.

How can we thank you, O God?
 For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good,
 for your steadfast promise and your faithful love,
 for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new.

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,
 we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Celebrant and People

**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.**

The Celebrant continues

All as are able – kneeling, or standing.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm.

With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.

He said to them, I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took a cup, saying, This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant of my blood. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us -- this bread, this cup, these people -- Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world.

Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord.

Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone.

Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table of glory.

Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord!

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior Christ taught us.

People and Celebrant

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

A period of reflective silence is kept.

The Administration of Communion

The Celebrant says

Come to this table.

You that have much faith, and you that would like to have more;

You that have been here often, and you that have not been for a long time;

You that follow Jesus and you that failed.

COME! It is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

~ All are welcome to the Lord's Table: open to all who come, so all may be fed. ~

The Post Communion Prayer

All as are able – kneeling.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray

(in unison)

Good and Gracious God, who chose the Blessed Mary

to be the mother of the promised Savior:

fill us your servants with your grace,

that in all things we may embrace your holy will

and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

The Celebrant says

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness

shine brightly on your path

as you walk the way of justice and peace.

And the blessing of God -

the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life -

bless you and keep you always.

Amen.

The Announcements

The Dismissal

In the spirit of the beatitudes,

commit to leading a life of blessing,

living in compassion, simplicity, and peace.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

- ☆ **Altar flowers Sunday January 29** – given by Rick and Millie Roach in celebration of Millie's Birthday.
- ☆ **Sunday School Schedule**
 - **9:15 Adult Forum**, continue with *The Gift of Years*.
 - **9:15 Sunday School**: Third Grade and up.
 - **10:00 a.m. Sunday School** for Pre-K to Second Grade.
- ☆ **Sunday February 5** – Recasting of Assets Group Meeting: after the service during Coffee Hour.

- ☆ **Sunday February 5** – **Boy Scout Sunday; Commissioning of Vestry and 2017 Convention delegates**
- ☆ **Sunday February 5** – **2017 Souper Bowl Party**, starts at 6 pm
- ☆ **Thursday February 9** – 6:30 Youth Commission Meeting.
- ☆ **Weekly Healing Service** – **Tuesdays at noon** a Healing Service with Holy Communion is held in the church proper. The service is open to anyone who wants to attend.
- ☆ **Thursdays** – 7:00 pm Choir practice.
- ☆ **Check sign-up sheets** – On the counter in Christopher’s Corner there are sign-up sheets for **altar flowers**, sanctuary candles, fellowship, St. Vincent’s, ECW activities, Prayer Chain, etc.
- ☆ **OUTREACH** –Remember **Box Tops for Education**. Please continue with donations for FISH; they need shampoo, tooth brushes, cereal, peanut butter, deodorant, toilet paper, sugar, and other Food items. And feed your change to our bank -- 2 cents a meal.
- ☆ **Prayer Concerns:** Please call or email Joyce D'Allessandris to activate the Prayer Chain. e-mail: dallessa@aol.com, phone: 254-0005.
- ☆ **The February 2017 Lantern** – is online at stchristophersfairborn.org. A printed copy is available upon request, or a copy can be sent by email.
- ☆ We are still collecting used printer cartridges. They can be recycled at the office supply stores. There is a plastic container in Christopher's corner for you to fill!!

** Please Note: We have a new Web site for St. Christopher’s – stchristophersfairborn.org



Coming Events

Souper Bowl Party 2017

Sunday February 5, 2017 starts at 6 p.m.
Soups, sandwiches, snacks / games, raffle
Watch the game – Kick-off at 6:30 p.m.

Donations accepted – help fund St. C Youth Mountain TOP trip

Sign-up sheet in Christopher’s Corner

Saturday, February 25th at 6 p.m.

ECW International Favorites Dinner –
see the ECW article in the February Lantern for details.

Plan to come and Enjoy!

Tuesday February 28 – 5-7 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

**“Living the Great Commandment by Ministering
to Our Neighbors in Body, Mind and Spirit.”**

Celebrant	The Rev. Ruth B. Paulus
Worship Leader	Sarah Smith Marsh
Chalice Bearer	Alan Haberecht
First Reader	Hayward Learn
Second Reader	Judy Brainard
Acolyte	James Lester
Ushers	Iyabo Eguaroje, Gordon Hermann
Healing Prayers	Toni Olgeaty
Greeters	Darlene and Gordon Walbroehl
Nursery	Volkmer
Altar Guild	Mel Bigi, Andrea Haberecht
Tellers	Deb Snavelly
Fellowship	Millie and Rick Roach
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavelly: 878-4054

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THE REV. RUTH B. PAULUS, RECTOR

RECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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In Emergencies: 937-307-4622 (Cell)

CHURCH SECRETARY – KAY MITCHELL

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 2 PM