

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.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 5, 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

The Processional

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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading **Isaiah 58:1-12**

In Isaiah 58 the prophet reminds the people of the sins that led to their exile and reminds them what exactly the Lord is wanting from them. In today's reading, the prophet focuses on what it means to fast for God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 112:1-10 *Beatus vir*

- 1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- 6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- 10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

The Second Reading **1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

In today's reading, Paul is explaining his approach to proclaiming the gospel.

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 5:13-20**

Last week we heard the famous Beatitudes. This week's reading picks up from where we left off. It focuses upon the calling of Jesus' disciples to be salt and light as well as Jesus' vocation to fulfill the law and the prophets.

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

Sisters and brothers, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Let us pray, “Lord, hear our call, and answer us.”

Establish your Church, O God, as a light to the world. Shine your Holy Spirit through us, and all for your glory and the welfare of your people.

Silence

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

Righteous God, you delight in justice and mercy: loose the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Raise up leaders who care for the poor. For our nation, 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

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

We thank you, O God, for the gift of light. By it you cause plants to grow; by it you generate warmth; by it you open our eyes to see the beauty of all you have made.

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

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

In our own city, Great God, be the restorer of streets. Rebuild our ruined places.

May all the people of this community live in security and peace.

Silence

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

Be present to all those who cry for help, O Holy One. We pray your healing will spring up quickly for those in need. Hear our prayers for those in pain and distress: especially

Toni, Carol, Daphne, Sandy, Ed, Bill, David, Sheila, Mara and Doc Chandler,
Steven, Nathan, Roger, Thom, Melody, Edgar, Jean, Margie, and Laurie.

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

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

The human heart fails to conceive all the good you have prepared for your beloved ones, Heavenly Parent. We trust to you our dying and our dead, believing that you are good and faithful. 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

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

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.

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

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

Lord, hear our call, **And answer us.**

“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

Boy Scout Blessing:

(in unison)

Almighty God, creator of us all; grant us the patience to wait and listen to your voice. Help us not to seek the answers in the silence of prayer, but rather let your thoughts travel to us and through us.

O God, how thankful we are that you have come into our lives through the Holy Spirit. You know, Lord, that we're not perfect, that we want to improve. Show us where we can.

We pray today for God's children – all the children of the world. May they find peace and love in their families and schools and learn the love of Jesus Christ for each and every one of them through our lives as we interact with them on a daily basis. We also pray for our young people, who are seeking a cause which is worthy of their life's commitment and a leader who is deserving of their devotion.

We pray you will be with our Scouts as they continue to follow the Scout law and work toward being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. We ask all this in your Son's name. Amen.



BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

Commissioning of Vestry Members and Delegates to Convention

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which they are called.

I believe these persons are prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of his Church?

Celebrant: You have been called to a ministry in this congregation.
Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidates: **I will.**

Celebrant: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidates: **I will.**

Members of the Vestry

Celebrant: I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Members of the Vestry in this congregation.

Antiphon

The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

Celebrant: I am your servant; grant me understanding:

People: **That I may know your decrees.**

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you:

Cindy Feltz	Secretary
Iyabo Eguaroje	Vestry Member
Mike Volkmer	Vestry Member

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Celebrant: I present to you these persons, duly elected as Delegates to Diocesan Convention, to be commissioned for their ministry.

Antiphon

Call a solemn assembly, gather the people, assemble the elders, and sanctify the congregation.

Celebrant: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.

People: **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Eternal Lord God, who by the Holy Spirit presided at the council of the Apostles to guide them in all knowledge and truth: Be present with the Delegates of this congregation to Diocesan Convention. In the passions of debate give them a quiet spirit, in the complexities of the issues give them clear minds, and in the moments of decision give them courageous hearts. Guide them in all things to seek only your glory and the good of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of God and of this congregation I commission you

Primary Delegates:

Anne Volkmer	Lauren Faller
Tammy Elliott	Judy Brainard

Alternate Delegates:

Derick Faller (1)	Robin Jones (3)
Millie Roach (2)	Melody Kelley (4)

as Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

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

The Liturgy of the Table



The Celebrant says

Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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 true light, shine upon you,

that you may walk in righteousness all your days.

And the Blessing of God Almighty - Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be with you now and always.

Amen.

The Recessional

The Announcements

The Dismissal

Jesus said, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Matt. 5:16

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

- ✧ Altar flowers Sunday February 5 – given by David Woodward and Charlotte Garman with Love to All, and given by Alice Baldwin in Loving Memory of Rev. Canon Allan Baldwin.
- ✧ 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 Diocesan Convention delegates
- ✧ Sunday February 5 – 2017 Souper Bowl Party, starts at 6 pm
- ✧ Thursday February 9 – 6:30 Youth Commission Meeting.
- ✧ Sunday February 12 – St. Vincent's Volunteers
- ✧ Tuesday February 14 – Valentine's Day
- ✧ Sunday February 19 – Discretionary Fund offering
- ✧ Sunday February 19 – ECW used book sale
- ✧ Sunday February 19 – 11:30 Vestry meeting
- ✧ Monday February 20 – HOLIDAY Presidents Day
- ✧ Monday February 20 – Deadline for March 2017 Lantern articles and info.
- ✧ 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!!

Sunday Attendance

It is important that we are aware of how many people are in attendance on Sunday. So each month we show the attendance numbers. Remember, statistics indicate that to have a thriving and prosperous congregation, we need to shoot for 100 as the average Sunday attendance.

<u>Sunday Attendance</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec 2016</u>	<u>January 2017</u>
1 st Sunday	53	72	67	68	43
2 nd Sunday	59	48	57	81	80
3 rd Sunday	67	67	68	75	75
4 th Sunday	72	55	71	C'Mas Eve 99	68
5 th Sunday	n/a	68	n/a	n/a	66
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>332</u>

Special February Events

TODAY 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 28th – 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	Tammy Elliott
Chalice Bearer	Ed Smith
First Reader	Ann Foster
Second Reader	Muriel Markley
Acolyte	Iyabo Eguaroje
Ushers	Gordon Hermann, James Lester
Healing Prayers	Toni Olgeaty
Greeters	Joyce and Ron D'Allessandris
Nursery	Kopp
Altar Guild	Eleanor and Becky Wood
Tellers	Bob Bigi, Gordon Walbroehl
Fellowship	open
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavelly: 878-4054

ST CHRISTOPHER EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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RECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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CHURCH SECRETARY – KAY MITCHELL

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