

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



For we are God's fellow workers.
You are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV

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.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 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.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First ReadingSirach 15:15-20

In today’s reading, Ben Sira instructs his readers regarding the freedom and power of personal choice. Leading up to today’s reading, the sage challenges those who blame their failures on God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 119:1-8 Aleph Beati immaculati

- 1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, *
 who walk in the law of the Lord!
- 2 Happy are they who observe his decrees *
 and seek him with all their hearts!
- 3 Who never do any wrong, *
 but always walk in his ways.
- 4 You laid down your commandments, *
 that we should fully keep them.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct *
 that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then I should not be put to shame, *
 when I regard all your commandments.
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
 when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; *
 do not utterly forsake me.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

In the opening chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul voices his concern over reports that indicate that factions have arisen within the Corinthian church and are posing a threat to Christian community and mission. In today’s reading, Paul returns to this important issue and focuses upon the respective roles that have been assigned to him and Apollos.

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 5:21-37

It is not uncommon for readers of the Sermon on the Mount to walk away thinking that it is filled with a bunch of high ideals that are impossible to live up do. They claim that Jesus taught the impossible demands of the law simply that we might be driven to recognize our need for God’s grace and forgiveness. It is important to recognize that, over the centuries, many devout Christians have left the Sermon wondering how in the world its purported demands are to be lived out this side of heaven.

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

Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord! So let us come before the Lord, saying,
“Righteous God, direct our ways.”

Lord our God, bless your Church. May those who plant and those who water recognize their common
purpose. Give abundant growth where your Church labors faithfully.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless the people of this and every nation. Draw nations and leaders to choose those ways
that promote life and not death. 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

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless this planet – your very footstool. Give us the wisdom and will to allow the earth to
prosper as you have intended – naturally bringing forth growth and prosperity.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless our city. Give us those things we need to live together as neighbors.
Remove from our hearts anger, discord, and lust.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless the sick and the struggling. May they find life in relationship with you.
Make them happy as they seek you with all their hearts. 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 and thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless the dying and the dead. May they find peace and comfort at the foot of your
heavenly throne. 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 (6868).

Chief Petty Officer William "Ryan" Owens // 36, on 1/29/17, of IL

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

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.

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

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

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

“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

Brothers and sisters, we are God's servants, working together. Let us each serve then, as the Lord assigns, and work for the common purpose of the kingdom.

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 the wisdom of God,
the love of Christ,
and the peace of the Spirit
shine brightly in your lives
this day and always. **Amen.**

The Recessional

The Announcements

The Dismissal

Love the Lord,
choose the good,
hold fast to God,
so that you may flourish.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Deut. 30:15-20

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

- ♥ **Altar flowers Sunday February 12** – given by the Volkmers in Thanksgiving for Jesus' love.
- ♥ **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 12** – St. Vincent's Volunteers
- ♥ **Tuesday February 14** – Valentine's Day
- ♥ **Saturday February 18** – St. C Youth, attend Winter Jam
- ♥ **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.** Church office closed.
- ♥ **Monday February 20** – Deadline for **March 2017 Lantern** articles and info.
- ♥ **Saturday February 25 at 6 p.m.** – ECW International Favorites Dinner.
- ♥ **Sunday February 26** – **4th Sunday FISH donations.**
- ♥ **Sunday February 26** – Recasting of Assets Group Meeting: after the service during Coffee Hour.
- ♥ **Monday February 27** – at 7pm, Fairborn Mayor’s Citizen Forum, place: HERE at St. Christopher’s.
- ♥ **Tuesday February 28** – **5-7 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**
- ♥ **Wednesday March 1** – **Ash Wednesday Services at 6:30 p.m.**
- ♥ **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 – for 2 cents a meal.
- ♥ **Prayer Concerns:** Please call or email Joyce D’Alessandris 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!!

Special February Events

Saturday, February 25th at 6 p.m. ECW International Favorites Dinner – Plan to come and Enjoy! A group of our international wives (and husbands) will be serving us examples of their favorite dishes from their home countries. We are so honored to have their talents and friendship in our parish. Rick & Millie Roach will be hosting the dinner at their home at 1273 Graceland Dr., Fairborn on Saturday, February 25th at 6 p.m. We will have treats from Alice Baldwin (Japan), Iyabo and Frank Eguaroje (Nigeria), Grace and Jean de Dieu Mukunzi and Jeannette Mukarukundo (Rwanda), Muriel and Max Markley (Scotland), Telesa and Hayward Learn (Korea), Nora and Evan Mejia (Honduras) and the Roaches (Philippines).

The rest of us are asked to bring a beverage or a dessert. Recipes will be available. Please sign up so we can plan for the crowd.

Tuesday February 28th – 5-7 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Pancakes, sausage, apple sauce, coffee, juice and milk will be served from 5 until 7. The price is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 4-12. We will also have vegetarian sausage and sugar free syrup for those who want it. Please sign up in Christopher’s Corner to help, and plan to attend.





~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

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

Celebrant	The Rev. Ruth B. Paulus
Worship Leader	Toni Olgeaty
Chalice Bearer	James Lester
First Reader	Sierra Lester
Second Reader	David Manship
Acolyte	Kathy Smith
Ushers	Mary Donnellan, Bruce Hain
Healing Prayers	Tbd (after the service)
Greeters	Darlene and Gordon Walbroehl
Nursery	Jones
Altar Guild	Betty Crichton, Andrea Haberecht
Tellers	Millie Roach, Ed Smith
Fellowship	Jones/Bigi
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavelly: 878-4054

ST CHRISTOPHER EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PO BOX 1026 1501 N. BROAD ST, FAIRBORN, OHIO 45324-1026

(937) 878-5614 (Office)

Website: stchristophersfairborn.org

E-Mail: office@stchristophersfairborn.org

THE REV. RUTH B. PAULUS, RECTOR

RECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

revrn05@gmail.com

In Emergencies: 937-307-4622 (Cell)

CHURCH SECRETARY – KAY MITCHELL

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