

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.

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 19, 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 Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Reading ..... Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18**

*Leviticus offers guidance for how to live life as the chosen people of God. Today's reading comes from a section of Leviticus known as the Holiness Code. Whereas the first sixteen chapters of Leviticus focus upon how God's people are to worship, addressing such matters as the operation of the sanctuary, the offering of sacrifices, and the functions of priests, chapters 17-26 focus upon how God's people are to live their everyday lives.*

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

**The Psalm: 119:33-40 He Legem pone**

- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.

**The Second Reading ..... 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23**

*Throughout the opening chapters of 1 Corinthians, Paul touches on matters related to Christian unity. Quarreling among the Christians of Corinth has led to divisions within the church. People are identifying themselves with certain leaders in a divisive manner.*

*In last week's reading, Paul argued that such divisions are a sign of spiritual immaturity, indicating that they are not being guided by the Spirit, the source of Christian community, but are going about their business in a merely human sort of way. In addition, Paul tries to impress upon them that so-called leaders within the church are merely servants of God. Instead, all belong to God. Today's reading picks up at this point.*

*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 5:38-48**

*When Jesus' teachings are read as triads instead of dyads, the whole Sermon is transformed. Instead of being confronted with impossible demands, we are given transforming initiatives, practical steps that have the power to transform people and situations by the grace of God. The differences between a dyadic reading (thesis-antithesis) and a triadic reading (transforming initiatives) were illustrated with Jesus' teaching on anger in last week's reading (5:21-26), and will be applied to the teachings in today's readings.*

*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*

Friends, Jesus commends us to, “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Therefore, let us come before God, praying, “Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees; give us life in your ways.”

Teach your Church, O Lord, to be holy as you are holy. Give us the courage to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

*Silence*

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your ways.**

Teach the people of this and every nation, O Lord, to be about justice and mercy.

Help us to treat all people, poor and rich alike, with dignity. 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*

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your ways.**

Teach us, O Lord, to care for your creation. May our fields yield enough to fill the bellies of all who hunger.

*Silence*

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your ways.**

Teach the people of our local community, O Lord, to value each other. May we deal with our neighbors fairly – not holding grudges but loving our neighbors as ourselves.

*Silence*

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your ways.**

Teach the sick and the struggling, O Lord, that you are trustworthy. You have called our bodies holy temples in which your Spirit is pleased to dwell. We pray that where there is sickness, you might bring healing and wholeness. Hear our prayers for those in pain and distress: especially

Toni, Carol, Daphne, Ed, David, Bill, Sheila, Mara and Doc Chandler,

Sandy, Steven, Nathan, Roger, Thom, Melody, Edgar, and Laurie.

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

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your ways.**

O Lord, the dying and the dead belong to you. Fulfill your promise to your servants: new and unending life in Christ. 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).

*Silence*

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your 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.*

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your 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*

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to your decrees;

**Give us life in your 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.**

**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*

Seek the grace of God that is given in Jesus Christ.  
Love your neighbor as yourself and pray for those  
who do not love you.

*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 sure foundation, uphold you. 1 Cor. 3:10  
May the Spirit, holy wisdom, guide you.  
May God, perfect love, grant you peace. Matt. 5:48  
**Amen.**

## **The Recessional**

## The Announcements

### The Dismissal

Go in the name of Jesus to love friend and enemy,  
neighbor and stranger,  
the righteous and the lost.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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



### ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

**\*\*\* Please Note – There WILL be Choir practice this Thursday, Feb 23 at 7:00 pm. Welcome back to Melody!**

- ♥ **Altar flowers Sunday February 19** – given by the Manships in Thanksgiving for Ashley’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 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** – 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
Sign-up to help, plan to attend!
- ♥ **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'Allessandris to activate the Prayer Chain. e-mail: [dallessa@aol.com](mailto:dallessa@aol.com), phone: 254-0005.
- ♥ **The February 2017 Lantern** – is online at [stchristophersfairborn.org](http://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!!

\*\*\* **Reminder** – next Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> is 4<sup>th</sup> **Sunday for FISH** donations.



### *Special February Events*

#### **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 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), 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 28<sup>th</sup> – 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	Sarah Smith Marsh
Chalice Bearer	Toni Olgeaty
First Reader	Theresa Turner
Second Reader	Meredith Marsh
Acolyte	Ed Smith
Ushers	Iyabo Eguaroje, James Lester
Healing Prayers	tbd (after the service)
Greeters	Judy Brainard, Telesa Learn
Nursery	Faller
Altar Guild	Kathy Smith, Sierra Lester
Tellers	Cindy Manship, John Stauffer
Fellowship	Bob and Karen Krauss
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavelly: 878-4054

**ST CHRISTOPHER EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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**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**