

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.

First Sunday in Lent
March 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! ~*

The Liturgy of the Word

All as are able – standing

Process in reciting the Decalogue

The Decalogue:

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

The Penitential Order

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Celebrant continues

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, and ourselves. *(In unison)*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant then says

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

The Trisagion S102 *(Repeat for a total of 3 times)*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

The Bible opens with two related, yet distinct accounts of the beginnings of creation, which are placed alongside one another in the opening chapters of Genesis. Each in its own way affirms that original goodness of creation. In Genesis 2, creation's goodness is affirmed through a comment about the original state of its leading citizens. In today's reading, we have the first episode in this narrative analysis, which centers on the first act of human disobedience.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 32 *Beati quorum*

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Reading **Romans 5:12-19**

Today's OT reading tells the story of Adam and Eve's test in the garden of Eden; their story is one of disobedience and failure. In contrast, the gospel reading recounts the story of Jesus' test in the wilderness; his story is one of obedience and faithfulness. Today's reading from Romans draws these two stories together, telling the tale of two Adams, the first Adam who introduced sin and death into the world and the last Adam who brought life.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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 4:1-11

While all three Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) mention Jesus’ testing by Satan, only Matthew and Luke provide detailed accounts.

Jesus spends a total of forty days and nights in solitude in the wilderness, neither eating food nor drinking water. Jesus is by himself, but he is not alone; the Spirit is now his constant companion. Interestingly, the devil does not begin to tempt Jesus until after he has fasted for forty days. Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness calls to mind Israel’s forty years in the wilderness, a time when the Lord provided the Israelites with daily bread through the daily provision of manna.

Three times defeated, the devil abandons Jesus.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Reverend 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.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Let us pray to the source of our sustenance, saying, “God, our hiding place, preserve us from trouble.”

Great God, you have called your people to worship and serve you alone. Instill in us such a singleness of heart we might perfectly trust you to meet our needs.

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

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

Great God, we live among many temptations. Free the people of this nation, and this world, from all sinful desires that draw us from the love of God. 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

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

Great Creator, you have surrounded us with blessings; you provide enough to meet our needs. And yet, we strive and scheme for more, always more. Have mercy on us.

Silence

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

O Lord, we pray for those bound by addiction, those for whom temptation is a constant threat. Set the captives free. Satisfy their cravings with abundant grace.

Silence

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

Be with the sick and suffering, Great Healer. Be for them a hiding place; preserve them from trouble; surround them with shouts of deliverance. Hear our prayers for those in pain and distress: especially

Toni, Carol, Daphne, Ed, David, Edgar, Sheila, Mara and Doc Chandler,
Collen, Florence, Sandy, Steven, Nathan, Thom, Roger, and Bill.

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

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

Through the righteousness of Jesus our Christ, give new and abundant life to all. Justify the dying and the dead. Keep them in your strong hands for ever. 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

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

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.

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

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

God, our hiding place,

Preserve us from trouble.

"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 Peace

All as are able stand.

Celebrant The Lord be 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 Liturgy of the Table



The Celebrant says

This is the free gift of Jesus Christ:
abounding grace, justification, and life for all.

The Music at the Offertory “One Faith, One Hope, One Lord” Craig Courtney

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 is 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 our thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you loved the world so much that you gave your only begotten Son Jesus Christ. To share our lives fully, he came among us in flesh. He lived as we live, subject to all human frailties and temptations of life. Yet, even in the wilderness of the desert and the enticements of the devil, he resisted sin.

Therefore we praise you, and we join with the heavenly chorus of angels and all the great company of saints as we praise your name:

The Sanctus

(in unison)

**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

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross, he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead, you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body which is given for you."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom.

We proclaim your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, *(in unison)*

**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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

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

A period of reflective silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem:

Celebrant We break this bread

People **Communion in Christ's body once broken**

Celebrant Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

People **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

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 Communion Hymns: # 309..... "O Food to Pilgrims Given"

314..... "Humbly I Adore Thee"

325..... "Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees"

The Post Communion Prayer

All as are able – kneeling.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray

(in unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant says

May the steadfast love of God surround you
throughout these forty days and into everlasting life.

Ps. 32:10; Matt. 4:2;
Rom. 5:18

And the blessing of God Almighty remain with you forever.

Amen.

The Recessional Hymn # 688 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

The Announcements

The Dismissal

Worship the Lord;
serve only God.

Matt: 4:10

People **Thanks be to God.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

- ◆ **Sanctuary Candle Sunday March 5** – given by Gail and John Stauffer for Thanksgiving.
- ◆ **Sunday School Schedule**
 - 9:15 Adult Forum, study of The Creed.
 - 9:15 Sunday School: Third Grade and up.
 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Pre-K to Second Grade.
- ◆ **TODAY, Sunday March 5 – Episcopal Relief and Development**
March 5th (1st Sunday of Lent) is ERD Sunday. Loose change, or other contributions to ERD will be collected for that purpose on March 5th. Please make checks out to St. Christopher’s with a note that it is for ERD.
- ◆ **Sunday March 12 – Daylight Saving Time begins.** *Set clocks ahead.*
- ◆ **Sunday March 12** – St. Vincent’s Volunteers
- ◆ **Friday March 17** – St. Patrick’s Day!!
- ◆ **Saturday March 18** – 7-9 ECW outing to Terri Lynn Art Studio in Fairborn.
- ◆ **Sunday March 19** – Discretionary Fund offering
- ◆ **Sunday March 19** – ECW used book sale
- ◆ **Sunday March 19** – 11:30 Vestry meeting



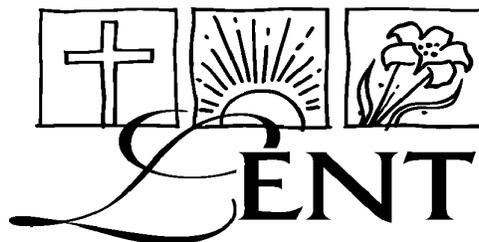
- ◆ **Monday March 20** – **First Day of Spring!!**
- ◆ **Monday March 20** – Deadline for **April 2017 Lantern** articles and info.
- ◆ **Sunday March 26** – **4th Sunday FISH donations.**
- ◆ **Sunday March 26** – Recasting of Assets Group Meeting: after the service during Coffee Hour.
- ◆ **Monday March 27** – at 7pm, Fairborn Mayor’s Citizen Forum, place: tbd.
- ◆ **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 sanctuary candles, Altar Flowers (starting April 16), fellowship, St. Vincent’s, ECW activities, Prayer Chain, etc. **Reminder** – there will be no altar flowers during Lent: from Ash Wednesday March 1 until Easter Sunday April 16.
- ◆ **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 March 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>Nov</u>	<u>Dec 2016</u>	<u>January 2017</u>	<u>February</u>
1st Sunday	67	68	43	70
2nd Sunday	57	81	80	59
3rd Sunday	68	75	75	61
4th Sunday	71	C'Mas Eve 99	68	61
5th Sunday	n/a	n/a	66	n/a
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>332</u>	<u>251</u>



Special Events

TODAY, Sunday March 5 – Episcopal Relief and Development

March 5th (1st Sunday of Lent) is ERD Sunday. Loose change, or other contributions to ERD will be collected for that purpose on March 5th. Please make checks out to St. Christopher's with a note that it is for ERD.



Sunday March 12 – Daylight Saving Time begins.

Set clocks ahead.

Saturday March 18 – 7-9 ECW outing to Terri Lynn Art Studio in Fairborn.

On Saturday, March 18, we are having an art lesson at Terri Lynn Art Studio and Gallery. The cost is \$10 and we will be painting copies of art displayed in her studio or she will assist you in copying a picture of your choosing. Her studio is located at 415 W. Main St. in Fairborn and the time is 7-9. You can bring beverages and snacks of your choosing. See Ann if you want to join us for this fun activity.

~ 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 Bearers	Ed Smith
First Reader	Judy Brainard
Second Reader	David Manship
Acolyte	James Lester
Ushers	Ann Foster, Gordon Hermann
Healing Prayers	Toni Olgeaty
Greeters	Darlene and Gordon Walbroehl
Nursery	Volkmer
Altar Guild	Melody Bigi, Judy Brainard, Andrea Haberecht
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
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