

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.

**Second Sunday in Lent
March 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! ~*

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)*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First ReadingGenesis 12:1-4a

The calling of Abram and Sarai – later to be given the names Abraham and Sarah – represents a key transition in the biblical narrative. Up to this point in the Bible, the stories have been concerned with universal human history (creation, the fall, the flood, the tower of Babel). Yet, beginning in Genesis 12, the narrative suddenly begins to focus upon the particular history of Israel, a history that begins with the calling of this unlikely couple. Today’s reading opens with the Lord commanding Abram to leave his father’s house in Haran and relocate his family in “the land that I will show you”, later identified as Canaan.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 121 *Levavi oculos*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Reading **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

First, faith takes precedence because it was operative before circumcision or the law came along. Second, neither circumcision nor the law were introduced to replace faith but to support faith as the basis of a right-relationship with God.

Paul begins his defense of God’s covenant faithfulness and of the righteousness that comes by faith by recalling the story of the patriarch Abraham. Paul appeals to Abraham for two reasons. First of all, Abraham is an example of someone God regarded a righteous solely because he trusted God. Had Abraham been declared righteous because he obeyed the law, his righteousness would have been payment for a job well done and therefore something he could have been proud of.

Paul appeals to Abraham because he sees in God’s calling of Abraham the beginning of the story of God’s chosen people – a story that reaches its climax in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth.

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 John.

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

The Holy Gospel **John 3:1-17**

All four gospels include an account of Jesus’ demonstration in the temple where he drives out all who are buying and selling and overturns the tables of the money-changers. In John, however, Jesus’ demonstration in the temple precincts is placed at the beginning of his ministry, and it is the raising of Lazarus, not the demonstration in the temple, that persuades Jesus’ opponents to plot his death.

Nicodemus is an exceptional Pharisee, for he is not automatically predisposed against Jesus. While his clandestine visit was likely prompted by Jesus’ temple demonstration, Nicodemus is genuinely seeking answers.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

Sarah Smith Marsh

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.

Behold, children of God, it is the Lord who watches over you. As people sent forth into the world
let us pray, saying, “Lord, bless us, so that we may bless others.”

Lord, preserve your Church from all evil. May we, who have been born of water and the Spirit,
proclaim the kingdom of God in all the world.

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

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

O God, may the leaders of the nations ever seek the truth. Open their hearts to true conversation and
divine guidance. 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, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

Maker of heaven and earth, you have blessed us with a wondrous and dynamic creation.
Protect us from its rage; comfort us by its tranquility. Give us eyes to see your handiwork
in the world around us.

Silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

Lord, your eyes never close on your people. We thank you for your mindfulness of us and our community. Be our help and our safety.

Silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

You did not send your Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world may see and experience your salvation. Bring wholeness to those who look to your Son for their help.

Hear our prayers for those in pain and distress: especially

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

Thom, David, Edgar, Nathan, Roger, and Bill,

Rod, Vicky, Cameron, Collen, Florence, Sandy, and Steven,

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

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

O God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist, keep the dying and the dead from this time forth and for evermore. Give eternal life to all those who trust in you. 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

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

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, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them give patient understanding and persevering love. **Amen.**

Silence

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

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, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

“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

Happy are those whose God is the Lord;
happy the people he has chosen as his own.

The Music at the Offertory

“In This Moment of Remembrance”

by Dale Wood

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: # 440 "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"

691 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

448 "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

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

As you go out and come in,
may God keep you by sunlight and moonlight;
may Christ encompass you with love;
and may the Holy Spirit empower you with new life;
now and forever.

Ps. 121:8

Amen.

The Recessional Hymn # 473 “Lift High the Cross”

The Announcements

The Dismissal

Go out in faith,
trusting in God’s sense of direction.

Gen. 12:1

Remember how much God loves this world
and so love the world in the name of Christ,
that your testimony becomes the good news
someone else has been waiting to receive.

John 3:16

John 3:11-12

People **Thanks be to God.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

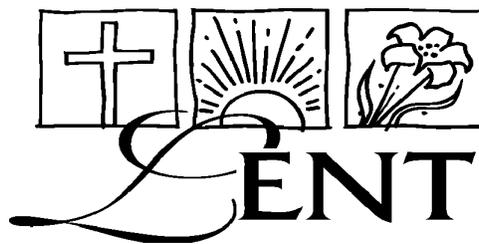
- ◆ **Sanctuary Candle Sunday March 12** – given by Gail and John Stauffer for Thanksgiving.
- ◆ **Sunday School Schedule**
 - 9:15 Adult Forum, study of The Creed.
 - 9:15 Sunday School: Third Grade and up.
 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Pre-K to Second Grade.
- ◆ **TODAY, Sunday March 12 – Daylight Saving Time begins.**
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 – 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 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!!

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 |
| Homily given by | Sarah Smith Marsh |
| Worship Leader | Toni Olgeaty |
| Chalice Bearers | Alan Haberecht |
| First Reader | John Stauffer |
| Second Reader | Stan Nelson |
| Acolyte | Iyabo Eguaroje |
| Ushers | Hayward Learn, James Lester |
| Healing Prayers | Toni Olgeaty (after the service) |
| Greeters | Mary Donnellan, Bruce Hain |
| Nursery | Kopp |
| Altar Guild | Judy Brainard, Betty Crichton |
| Tellers | Ed Smith, John Stauffer |
| Fellowship | Gail and John Stauffer |
| Director of Music Ministries | Melody Kelley |
| Organist Emeritus | Connie Klarer |
| Senior Warden | Deb Snavelly: 878-4054 |

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RECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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In Emergencies: 937-307-4622 (Cell)

CHURCH SECRETARY – KAY MITCHELL

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