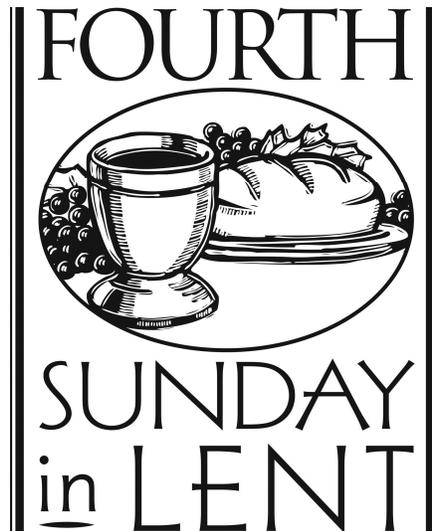


Saint Christopher Episcopal Church
Fairborn, Ohio
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio



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.

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 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.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

David was without question the most celebrated king in Israel's history, the king against whom all subsequent kings were measured. David was singularly devoted to the Lord, and is described as a man after God's own heart. Under David's leadership, Israel becomes united politically and spiritually. Yet, it had not been part of the Lord's original design for Israel to have a human king, for the Lord was to be their king. But when the people clamor for a king that they might be like other nations, the Lord accedes to their wishes. Saul does not follow the Lord's instructions, and so the Lord regrets choosing Saul and seeks a man after his own heart to shepherd his people. That man is David, and in today's lesson, we read of his anointing by Samuel.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 23 *Dominus regit me*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Reading **Ephesians 5:8-14**

There is some concern that, among the Ephesian Christians, there are those who still think and act in the old death-dealing ways. So Paul insists that they make a clean break with their former lives. The reading begins with a reminder of what change has been wrought in the Ephesian Christians: once they were darkness but now they are light.

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 9:1-41**

Today, Jesus gives sight to a man who has been blind his entire life. The man's physical healing serves as an icon of the spiritual healing that Jesus offers the whole world.

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.

Brothers and sisters, live as children of the light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Light of the world, open our eyes.”

Lord our Shepherd, you have given your Church all that we need. Rain down on us mightily with your Spirit, that we may testify to the astonishing things you have done in our lives.

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

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

God, you are present in the valley of the shadow of death. Comfort all those around the world who know danger or violence or war. By your love, cast out evil and fear. We remember this day the victims of violence in London.

Silence

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

Lord, 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

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

Lord, spread a table for those who are hungry; where there is scarcity and need in our neighborhoods, fill empty hearts, lives and cups with your abundance. By your light expose all the unfruitful works of darkness.

Silence

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

God of life, pursue the sick and sorrowful with your goodness and mercy. Reveal your works in those who are suffering. Make yourself known as Healer. Hear our prayers for those in pain and distress: especially

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

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

Lindsay, Jan, Rod, Vicky, Cameron, Florence, Sandy, and the family of Collen.

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

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

Reviver of Souls, give to the dying and the dead your promise of new and unending life. May we one day live with them forever in the light of 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 (6875).

Collen, nephew of Stanley and Carolyn Nelson

Silence

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

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.

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

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

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

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

Light of the world,

Open our eyes

"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

Be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

The Music at the Offertory “Seek and You Will Find” Natalie Sleeth

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: # 490..... "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

645..... "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

440..... "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"

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 love of God pursue you,
the light of Christ enfold you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you;
as you dwell in the house of the Lord
your whole life long.

Amen.

The Recessional Hymn # 143 "The Glory of These Forty Days"

The Announcements

The Dismissal

Go peaceably,
looking upon the hearts of others.
Live in Christ's light,
even in the darkest valley.
Trust that he is able to open your eyes,
enabling you to walk by faith
in his name.

1 Sam. 16:4, 7b

Eph. 5:8b

Ps. 23:4

People **Thanks be to God.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

◆ 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 26 – 4th Sunday FISH donations.

◆ Sunday March 26 – Recasting of Assets Group Meeting: after the service during Coffee Hour.

◆ Sunday April 2 – 11:30 VESTRY meeting

◆ Sunday April 9 – St. Vincent's Volunteers

◆ Sunday April 9 – Palm Sunday, Sunday of the Passion

◆ Thursday April 13 – 6:30 Youth Commission Meeting

◆ 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.

◆ Easter Flowers – Check sign-up sheet. The flowers will be a selection of colorful flowers for the season. Please order and pay for the flowers by April 9. We will only purchase the number of plants that have been pre-paid. Please also indicate if you want to take the plant home.

◆ 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.

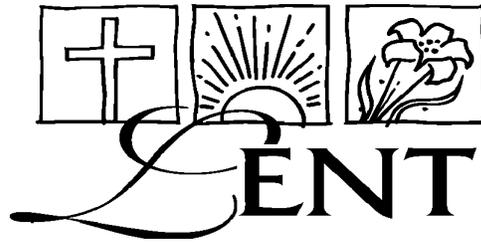
Please continue with donations for FISH; they need shampoo, tooth brushes, cereal, peanut butter, deodorant, toilet paper, sugar, and other Food items. And feed your change to our bank -- 2 cents a meal.

◆ Prayer Concerns: Please call or email Joyce D'Allessandris to activate the Prayer Chain. e-mail: dallessa@aol.com, phone: 254-0005.

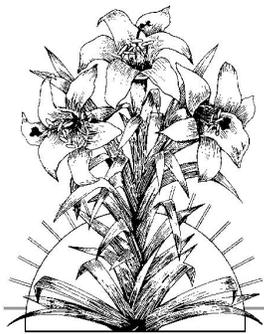
◆ The April 2017 Lantern – will be online at stchristophersfairborn.org. A printed copy is available upon request, or a copy can be sent by email.

◆ 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!!





*** **Reminder** – TODAY, Sunday March 26th is 4th Sunday for FISH donations.



Easter

SIGN-UP FOR

***Easter
Flowers***



Easter Lilies

Cost is \$10.00 each: The flowers will be a selection of colorful flowers for the season. Please order and pay for the flowers by Sunday April 9th. We will only purchase the number of plants that have been pre-paid.

~ 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 Bearers	James Lester
First Reader	Mary Donnellan
Second Reader	Ann Volkmer
Acolyte	Kathy Smith
Ushers	Eleanor and Becky Wood
Healing Prayers	Toni Olgeaty (after the service)
Greeters	Andrea and Alan Haberecht
Nursery	Faller
Altar Guild	Eleanor and Becky Wood
Tellers	Susan Brainard, Gordon Hermann
Fellowship	Volkmer
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavelly: 878-4054

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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