



321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896
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The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany: Council Sunday

January 29, 2023

10:30 A.M. Morning Prayer, Rite II

The Opening Voluntary	<i>Fantasia in G Minor</i>	Johann Pachelbel
Introit	<i>"Blessed are the pure in heart"</i>	Matthew 5, Psalm 34
Processional Hymn	<i>"In the cross of Christ I glory"</i>	Hymn 441

Officiant:

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling:

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 neighbors 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.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Invitatory and Psalter *All stand*

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant: The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7*

Hymnal S 35

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 15 *Domine, quis habitabit?*

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The First Song of Isaiah

“Surely it is God who saves me”

Hymn 679

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Song of Simeon

Hymnal S 255

Matthew 5:1-12

Officiant: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

The Apostles' Creed Officiant and People *spoken*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer (Officiant and People)

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrage A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with
righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
*R. For only in you can we live in
safety.*
V. Lord, keep this nation under your
care;
*R. And guide us in the way of justice
and truth.*

V. Let your way be known upon earth;
*R. Your saving health among all
nations.*
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be
forgotten;
*R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken
away.*
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
*R. And sustain us with your Holy
Spirit.*

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth:
Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship and faith.
Bless our Bishop Mark, and other clergy, and all of our people. Grant that your Word may
be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully
received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant
that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Mission of the Church

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Offertory Anthem

We Saw His Glory

Erhard Mauersberger

The Doxology:

Hymn 380 verse 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

"There's a wideness in God's mercy"

Hymn 470

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*

The Closing Voluntary

Toccata in D

Johann Pachelbel

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God
Given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for
Presley Titus
by her Parents Rebin and Lyndsay Titus*

Prayer List: Mary Ruth, Cindy, Lauren, Sue, Noah, Julia, Linda, Irene, Ruby, Pat, Hilda, Betty, Maria, Crystal, Dorothy, Sanddii and Kendall.

Pray today for the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia as we convene our 104th Annual Convention. The People of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop. The Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

Wednesday Eucharists

At Noon on Wednesdays, Eucharist is offered in the Chapel (accessed by the glass doors at the back of the church building).

Loaves & Fishes

Thanks to all who helped with the January meal. In February, our monthly free meal will be a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21 (due to the fast of Ash Wednesday falling on the last Wednesday). In March, we will return to the last Wednesday of the month with a sit-down community meal (and takeout will be available only at the end of the meal if there are any leftovers).

Video Operators Wanted

We are looking for people who are comfortable with computers and would be willing to help us livestream our services every Sunday. Please talk to Fr. John if you would be willing to learn the (not overly complicated) routine and join the rotation.

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for January - March: **Beef Stew (15-20 oz.)** For the month of January: **toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant and hygiene items.** As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

Winter Weather Policy

When we experience inclement winter weather on a Sunday morning, there will still be a 10:30 worship service in the church, but Fr. John encourages you to stay home if you feel you cannot arrive in safety, even if you are scheduled to serve. During the week, if Martinsville Public Schools are closed, the Office will also be closed.

Scam Alert

This week, many of you got a text purporting to be from Fr. John and asking for an unspecified favor. This is an unfortunately common scam targeting churches: unscrupulous actors obtain a church's contact list or directory and, using a fake phone number or email, contact church members identifying themselves as the church's clergyperson. Those who respond are typically asked for money in the form of a gift card. If a text or email purports to be from Fr. John but you are in doubt, contact him or the office by different means (for example, send him an email if you're suspicious about a text).

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!

Officiants: Hank Long, John Swezey

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Bob Weatherall, Jay Dickens, Gus Barber

Altar Guild: Team Four – Becky Farrar, Susan Smith,
Natalie Coleman, Ashley Ullstein, Dawn Stone

Counters: Natalie Coleman, Hank Long

2023 Christ Church Vestry

Year 3: Hank Long, Senior Warden; Ruby Stultz; Rebin Titus; Pat Walmsley

Year 2: Ben Beeler; Jay Dickens, Beverly Lyle, Treasurer; Andy Williams, Junior Warden

Year 1: Pat Bondurant, Betty Budde; Natalie Coleman, Secretary; Will Zimmer