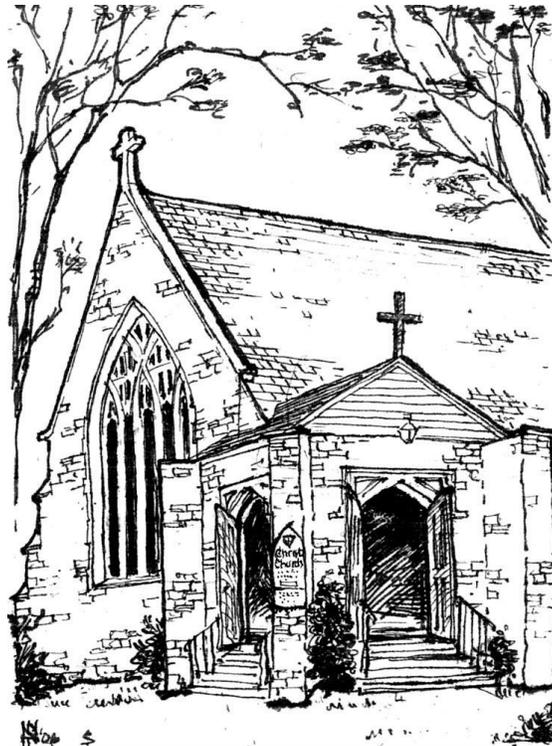


CHRIST CHURCH PARISH  
EPISCOPAL

10:00 AM

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Blessing of the Animals

September 25, 2022



*WELCOME*

Christ Church is an Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Massachusetts. We welcome and honor the God-given gifts that make us unique as individuals and strong as community. You and your family are welcome regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status or prior religious affiliation.

# The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN      *All things bright and beautiful*

VF III

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: most holy glorious, and undivided Trinity.

*People*      And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Earth and all stars*

1982 Hymnal 412

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      And also with you.

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR CREATION

O God, from whom all good proceeds: You established your covenant with all creation. Guide us and all your people, that we may walk upon the earth in righteousness and peace, and honor you in our kinship with all your creatures; through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### FIRST READING:

Genesis 1:1- 2:3

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his

image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

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

*Silence may follow.*

### **Psalm 146**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! \*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>2</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*  
for there is no help in them.

<sup>3</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*  
and in that day their thoughts perish.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>5</sup>Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;

<sup>6</sup>Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

<sup>8</sup>The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's First letter to Timothy.

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and

ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

*Take my life*

VF 132

*All stand.*

GOSPEL:

Luke 16:19-31

*All stand.*

*Deacon*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

*Deacon*        The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Harry Birkenhead

THE CREED

*All stand.*

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

May God, who sets the prisoner free and lifts up those who are bowed down, come to us who seek the Divine Presence in our daily lives, as we respond to each petition by saying, "Help us choose life."

*Intercessor* Save us from the temptations that plunge us into ruin and destruction, and spare us from choosing those things which corrupt the soul and lead to feelings of shame and guilt; Lord, in your mercy,

*People* Help us choose life.

*Intercessor* Set our hope on God's reign, so that we may bring the light of hope to those who live on the margins of society, who endure daily anxiety and shed tears of despair for their children and families; Lord, in your mercy,

*People* Help us choose life.

*Intercessor* Open our ears to hear your word, that in our willingness to heed its message we may be made a new creation; Lord, in your mercy,

*People* Help us choose life.

*Intercessor* Grant eternal life to all who have died, and bring those in this life to trust in the power of Christ's resurrection, this morning we remember especially the Amanda Mahaffey in whose honor and memory the lamp of presence has been given; Lord, in your mercy,

*People* Help us choose life.

*Intercessor* Make us thankful for our bishops, priests, and deacons whom God has sent to lift the lamp of charity before our eyes, and to help us in the knowledge and witness of our faith; Lord, in your mercy,

*People* Help us choose life.

*Intercessor* Strengthen the resolve of the peacemakers, give them patience in times of discouragement, give them hope in times of doubt, when ridiculed give them the assurance of your love; Lord, in your mercy,

*People*        **Help us choose life.**

Let us resolve to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share with others, as we continue our prayers.

### TRANSITION PRAYER

*Excerpted from a prayer from St. John's Church, North Haven, CT*

O God, in this interim time, we pray for our parish family. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family, that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
    in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
    the evil we have done,  
    and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. **Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

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.**

## THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

### A PRAYER FOLLOWING THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and Giver of all life: Let your blessing be upon these and all animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and may our care for them follow the example of your bountiful mercy. Grant these animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive, like Francis of Assisi, to imitate the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### THE PEACE

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# The Holy Communion

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### DOXOLOGY

1982 Hymnal 380

### INVITATION

Please remember that this sacrament we are about to participate in does not belong to the Episcopal Church or any other church or denomination, it belongs alone to our Lord Jesus. So, no matter where you are on your faith journey here today, you are all welcome (invited) to receive the sacrament here this morning.

# The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*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 him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

*Facing the Holy Table, 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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy*

1982 Hymnal S 125

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

# The Breaking of the Bread

## FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Be a shepherd for my flock*

VF 100

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

God of abundance,  
you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us  
with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## BLESSING

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*For the beauty of the earth*

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the Church which evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore thy pure sacrifice of love,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to the world so freely given,  
faith and hope and love divine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant*        Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*            Thanks be to God.