



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 13, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.
LITURGY OF THE WORD, SERMON, AND HOLY EUCHARIST

Bell and Organ Preludes

All stand, as able

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

The Collect for Purity

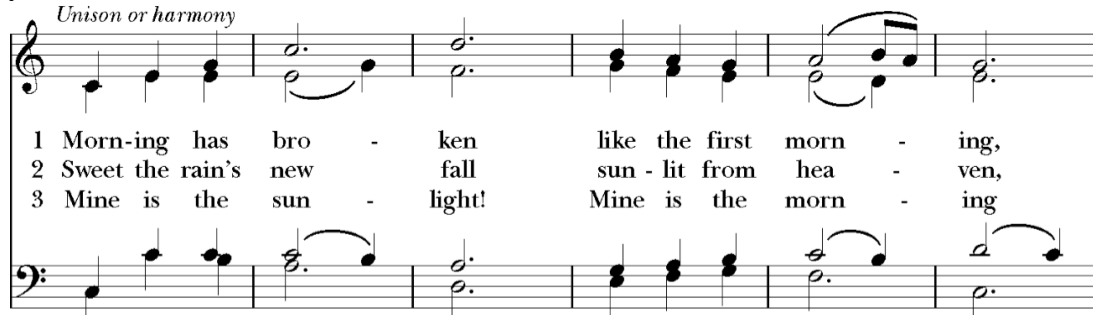
Said in unison

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

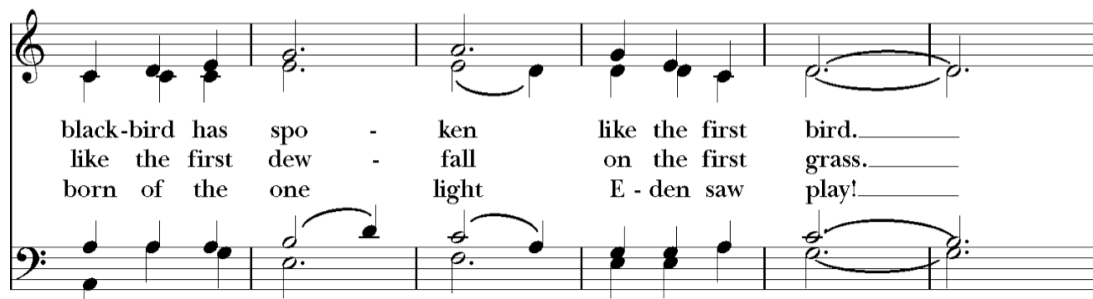
Hymn 8

Bunessan

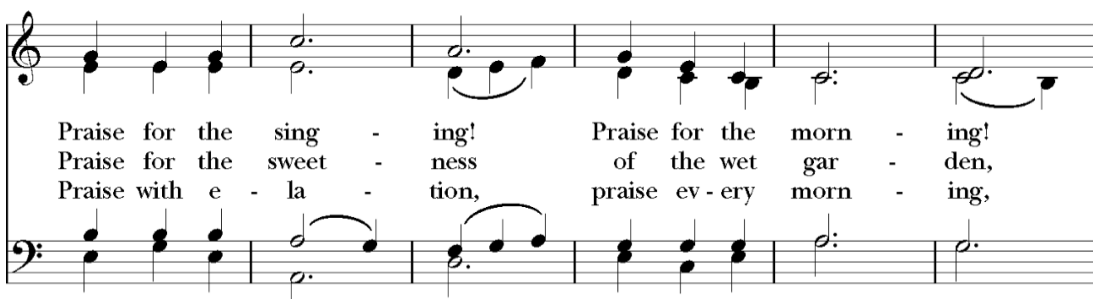
Unison or harmony



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
 born of the one light E - den saw play! _____



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921).

The Collect of the Day

May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Congregation is seated for the Lessons

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

15:34-16:13

Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 20

Read in unison

Exaudiat te Dominus

- 1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, *
the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;**
- 2 Send you help from his holy place *
and strengthen you out of Zion;**
- 3 Remember all your offerings *
and accept your burnt sacrifice;**
- 4 Grant you your heart's desire *
and prosper all your plans.**
- 5 We will shout for joy at your victory and triumph in the Name of our God; *
may the LORD grant all your requests.**
- 6 Now I know that the LORD gives victory to his anointed; *
he will answer him out of his holy heaven,
with the victorious strength of his right hand.**
- 7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, *
but we will call upon the Name of the LORD our God.**
- 8 They collapse and fall down, *
but we will arise and stand upright.**
- 9 O LORD, give victory to the king *
and answer us when we call.**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

5:6-10, 14-17

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

People

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Dove of Peace



1 The king - dom of our God is like a trea - sure trove con -
 2 The king - dom of our God is like a mus - tard seed in
 3 The king - dom of our God is like the yeast a wo - man
 4 The king - dom of our God is like a mer - chant who to
 5 The king - dom of our God is like a net which has been



cealed be - neath the ground, for which one sells all
 size which grows to of - fer nes - ting space for
 takes and mix - es in to leav - en each and
 own the rar - est pearl sells ev - ery - thing to
 cast and draws in good and bad which must be



else to buy that field, all else to buy that field.
 ev - ery bird that flies, for ev - ery bird that flies.
 ev - every loaf she bakes, and ev - every loaf she bakes.
 gain that pearl a - lone, to gain that pearl a - lone.
 sort - ed out at last, be sort - ed out at last.

Words: Christopher L. Webber, © Theodore Presser. Music: *Dove of Peace*, American folk melody.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark

4:26-34

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

People

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Rev. Timothy Safford, *Rector*

All stand, as able

The Nicene Creed

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 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 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.

Prayers of the People

Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Concluding Collect

The Peace

Please be seated

Greetings

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Offertory Solo
(*Sung in French*)

Ab! si j'avais des ailes de colombe from *Le Roi David*
Erica Johnson, *soprano*

Arthur Honegger

Oh, that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly far away to the desert.
Shall I have no rest but in the grave?
Where shall I be healed of the evils that I have suffered?

Where shall I find a haven for my head?
Evening and morning, I weep and I wail.
The wind of my misfortune blows a tempest,
and carries to God my prayer and my cries.

All stand, as able

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, p. 369 *BCP*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Celebrant and People

**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 Congregation may remain standing or kneel, then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

The Celebrant breaks the bread and, after a silence, says

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

With these words, the clergy will move through the congregation. All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination and tradition, with all those seeking a deeper relationship with Christ, are welcome to receive the Eucharist.

After all have received Communion, we stand and pray together

Let us pray,

Father, may we who have received this sacrament

live in the unity of your Holy Spirit,

that we may show forth your gifts to all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People

Thanks be to God.

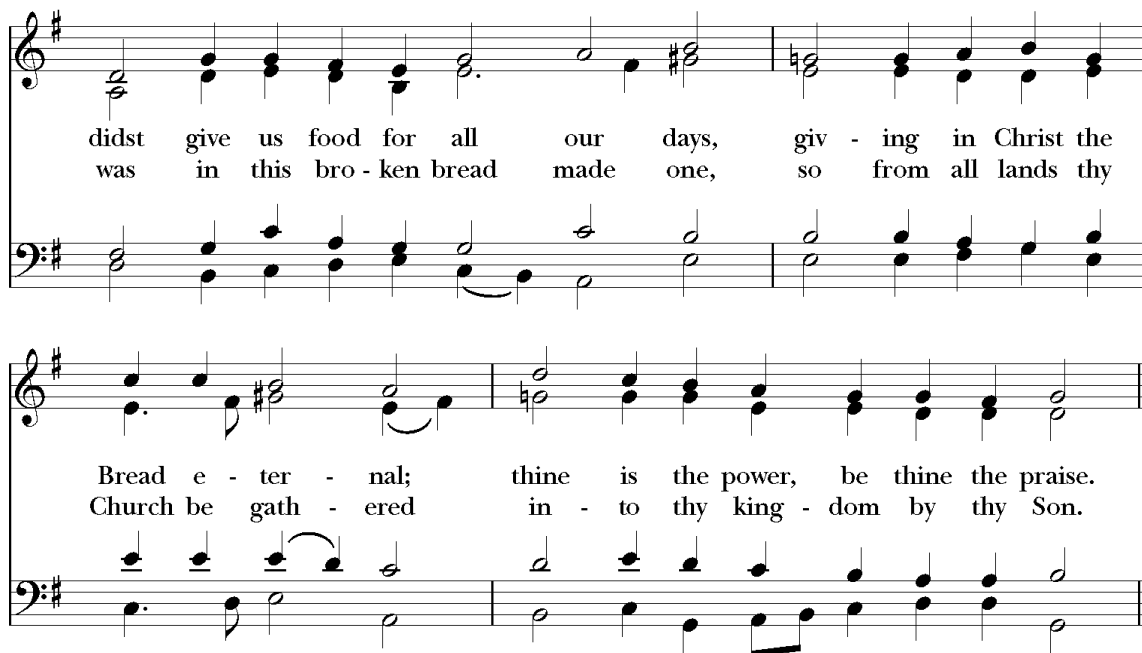
Closing Hymn 302

Rendez à Dieu

1 Fa - ther, we thank thee who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly Name with -
2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,

in our hearts. Know - ledge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy
guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -

Son to us im - parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,
formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,



didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
 was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy
 Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.
 Church be gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

Words: Greek, ca. 110; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Rendez à Dieu*, melody and harm. att. Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

Organ and Bell Postludes

The Worship has ended. The Service begins.

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BELL RINGER Nava Hall

ORGANIST Lucas Brown

CANTOR Erica Johnson

USHERS Walker Brown, Allan Hasbrouck

READER Sally Hardy

LIVESTREAM COORDINATORS Nate Drew, James Ashforth, Ethan Berlenbach

CLERGY The Rev. Timothy Safford, *Rector*; The Rev. Susan Richardson, *Assistant Minister*;
 The Rev. K. Palmer Hartl, *Parish Associate*

ALTAR GUILD Jill Rawnsley, Pat Walder

ALTAR FLOWER GUILD Carol Hauptfuhrer

*The flowers today have been offered to the glory of God
 and in thanksgiving for the marriage of
 MICHELLE LAPENTA and CHRISTOPHER GORDON*

Please remember this week those in our parish family in need of healing:

Jenna Baffone, Lauralou Bates, Janie Bingham, Rick Bravo, Frances Milliken Cramer, Trinity Eobbi, Heidi Fielding, Jean France, Kathy Frohlich, Annie George, Mary Gonzales, Sally Hardy, Emily Hayes, Barbara Kieran, Michael Krumrine, Sandra Langan, Terrance Langan, Joe Laskowski, Mary, Robert Metzger, Peggy Oakes, Lizunette Real, Jonathon Rist, Samantha, Margaret Simmons, Tom Spencer, Ken Sprang, Sue, Claire Lu Thomas, Stan Tomczak,

With prayers of special intentions for: **Craig, David, Joseph Gabriel, H.R. & Philip, Tramble,** and the victims of gun violence.

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

Find your place within this community.

Offerings



The vestry and staff of Christ Church are very grateful for all who are keeping their offerings and covenant giving current during this time of disruption. Offering checks may be sent to Christ Church, 20 N. American St. Philadelphia, PA 19106. For online giving, please go to



www.christchurchphila.org/give. Christ Church relies on

two different online giving methods: our Paypal email address is give@christchurchphila.org, or if using the PayPal mobile app, search for Christ Church Philadelphia. We have also recommend the reliable, securely encrypted site: [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). No “.com” or “.org,” just “tithe.ly/give”. They also provide an easy, intuitive giving app for iOS or Android. Please download the app and search for Christ Church in Philadelphia. Follow the instructions for making a one-time or recurring gift from a bank account or debit/credit card. Questions? Contact cwagner@christchurchphila.org.

TODAY, JUNE 13, 2021

Sages Gather Today

After the 10:00a.m. Service, the Sages will picnic in the North Garden followed by a walk to Elfreth's Alley. Join us for our last program before the summer break. Bring your own lunch, enjoy the north garden and share a guided tour of one of Philadelphia's oldest streets. Contact **Palmer** at kphartl@aol.com with questions.

Congregational Listening

With the Rector's announcement of his plans to retire as Rector of Christ Church on March 31, 2022, the Vestry has been actively listening to members of our congregation as they give their thoughts on our future. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Clergy or Vestry, should you wish to discuss any aspect of this privately. We are here to listen.

Vestry Members of Christ Church

Cheryl Beirne

George Bingham

Wayne Christman

Farnia Fresnel

Ayo Gansallo, *Rector's Warden*

Bruce Gill, *Clerk*

Nava Hall

Andy Halstead

Elizabeth Kimball

David Parke, *Accounting Warden*

Terre Slater

Sarah Stevenson

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andrewmalyonhalstead@gmail.com

ekimball99@gmail.com

dcparke@gmail.com

tslater@empireinterpreting.com

ses222@gmail.com

God of love, in this season of change, we pray for our parish community, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, vibrant in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, joyous in our celebrations, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. As we enter into this time of change with excitement, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you continue to bless us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Food Donations Needed

Crucifixion Food Distribution is a new center in south Philadelphia and is accepting food donations to support their mission of serving more than 600 families. Please deliver food staples to the Church of the Crucifixion, 8th and Bainbridge Streets on Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30a.m. Thank you!

Wednesday Noon Service

This simple liturgy is no longer than 30 minutes and is in the church every Wednesday.

The Farmers' Market at Christ Church

Each Wednesday from 3:00 – 6:00p.m. Visit our local vendors on Church Street through the end of October.

Celebrate the 325th Anniversary of Christ Church with events hosted by the Christ Church Preservation Trust throughout the year.

June 17 – 6:00-7:00p.m. Virtual on Zoom

“Fixing Everything but the Typos: Preserving Rare Books and Records from the Christ Church Archives” Over the last 15 years, Richard Homer, Senior Book Conservator at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, and his colleagues have helped Christ Church halt the deterioration of our archives. The archives, stored in the church itself for more than two centuries, lived in conditions not ideal for the storage of paper. Pages working loose from bindings, bindings suffering from red leather rot, iron gall ink eating away at paper, etc., have taken a toll. Richard will walk us through the labor intensive process of restoring these valuable records to exhibit worthy condition. Join us for this rare look behind the scenes of a conservator at work. **Advanced free registration required.** Go to: <http://www.neighborhood-house.com/events/virtual>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christ Church POWER

Christ Church POWER (an interfaith, multi-racial, people’s movement involving over 50 Philadelphia congregations) invites everyone to join in a Pilgrimage for Education Funding on **June 21 at noon**. This event will be a march to demonstrate public support for the Fair Funding Formula, which has been included in Governor Wolf’s proposed education budget, and will begin at Samuel Gompers School in Philadelphia and conclude at Merion Elementary School in Lower Merion. Not a far distance as the two schools are a little over a mile apart.

Please contact **Mimi Drew** (mimidrew200@gmail.com) or **Andy Halstead** (andrewmalyonhalstead@gmail.com) for more information should you have any questions.

Once again, attendees do not need to be Christ Church members or affiliated with POWER, so feel free to bring a friend or two! Here is the link to register. See you there! <https://secure.everyaction.com/RQkO-Nb4dESMXYGVRfEZoA2>

Patriotic Pipes: An Organ Concert of American Music

On Friday July 2 at 7:00pm, organists Parker Kitterman and Wesley Parrott will present a program of American music on Christ Church’s mighty Fisk organ, including works by Aaron Copland, Florence Price, Jon Knowles Paine and Scott Joplin. This free concert will be followed by an up-close tour of the organ. Masks or face coverings required inside the church.

Fair Trade Coffee & Tea (and Honey!)

Fair Trade Coffee and tea will be for sale the first Sunday of each month **beginning July 4**. The proceeds of this special organic coffee support the work of the Episcopal Relief and Development programs.

Fellowship at Christ Church – Small Groups

See a topic you're interested in? Contact the convener directly for more information, using the email listed. Have a topic you'd like to suggest, either as a participant or a convener?

Contact **Cheryl Dobleske Beirne** on the Parish Life team at cld331@gmail.com.

GROUPS TO JOIN

Lectio Divina. A group to discuss some scripture using a Lectio Divina format (re-reading a passage 2-3 times for personal influences/reactions).

Convener: **Dennis Hendricks**, dennisjhendricks@gmail.com

Study Group. We will read excerpts from several sources including the abolitionist journal of Fanny Kemble, who was married at Christ Church in 1834 to Pierce Mease Butler, grandson of Major Pierce Butler, a wealthy slave owner from South Carolina and member of the church. *Conveners:* **Kaye Pyle and Liz Kimball**, ekimball99@gmail.com

Good Shepherds. Reaching out to parishioners who may be lonely or struggling.

Convener: **Kate Hall**, cyprus8018@verizon.net

Sunday Bible Study. Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m., online. *Convener:* **The Rev. Palmer Hartl**. Use the link in the weekly parish email.

Tuesday Koin Group at 8:20 a.m. Morning Prayer using the appointed readings from Holy Women, Holy Men. *Convener:* **Cecilia Wagner**, cwagner@christchurchphila.org

Know how to use Zoom? Google Meet?

A few in our community are still struggling with connecting via Zoom. Would you be willing to be on a list of folks who can phone-talk them through getting on and off, muting and unmuting, etc.? Let **Beth Wilson** on the Parish Life team know: ewilson8044@gmail.com

Baptisms at Christ Church in 2021

September 19, November 7 (All Saints'). If you would like to have a baptism for yourself or your child, please contact the **Rev. Susan Richardson** at 215.922.1695, ext 25.

Journeys for Newcomers and Longtimers in 2021

Want to find out more about Christ Church? Or have you been here awhile and would enjoy a check-in? Our Journeys class combines newcomers and longer-time members in talk about faith and life, vocation, Anglicanism and Episcopal history, and how Christ Church can be part of your path now. Meeting over the course of three Sundays, members, newcomers, and clergy will journey together. Childcare and snacks provided; RSVP is needed. Questions? Check with **Susan Richardson**. srichardson@christchurchphila.org

Sun Sept 26, 11:30-12:45 - "Journeys become stories"

Sun Oct 10, 11:30-12:45 "The journey of the Episcopal Church"

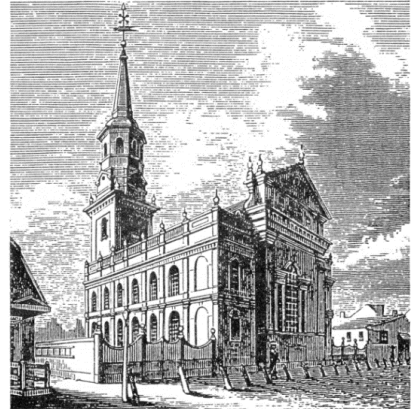
Sun Oct 24, 11:30-12:45 - "Living faith"

CHRIST CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

Thirty-nine Philadelphia families, loyal to the Bishop of London and desiring to worship according to the rites of the Church of England, established Christ Church on November 15, 1695. Construction began on the current church building in 1727 and concluded in 1744. The tower and steeple, financed by a lottery managed in part by Benjamin Franklin, were completed in 1754. The building is an outstanding example of colonial architecture in the Georgian spirit, possibly the finest building of its time in the colonies.

Christ Church and its clergy played a critical role during the Revolutionary era. In September 1774, the Rev. Jacob Duché, opened the first Continental Congress with prayers citing the 35th Psalm, *Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.* John Adams recounted to his wife Abigail, “I must confess I never heard a better prayer; heaven had ordained that psalm to be read on that morning.”

During this time, influential Philadelphians heard sermons in Christ Church both supporting and discouraging Independence. On July 4, 1776, Christ Church struck King George’s name from the prayers in worship.



In 1790, Christ Church designated a large, double-pew in the center aisle for the President of the United States to use for worship. President George Washington regularly attended, as did President John Adams while Philadelphia remained the capital of the United States. The pew is still so designated, but any worshipper may use it if not occupied.

Seven signers of the Declaration of Independence and five framers of the Constitution are buried in the hallowed grounds of Christ Church. In 1948, Congress designated Christ Church as a national shrine during the creation of Independence National Historical Park.

After the Revolution, Christ Church played the instrumental role in organizing the Episcopal Church out of the remnants of the colonial Church of England. Buried in the chancel of Christ Church is the Right Reverend William White, ninth Rector of the parish, Chaplain of the Continental Congress, first Bishop of Pennsylvania, and first Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in its formative years, all while remaining Rector of the parish. Bishop White demonstrated that the Church in this nation could be independent yet still in communion with the Church in England, a fundamental tenet of Anglicanism. The first General Convention that unified the scattered Episcopal Church and approved the first American *Book of Common Prayer* met in this building in 1789.

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you belong and are welcomed just as you are, to receive the blessings of God.

Worship: Sunday at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at Noon
Services are livestreamed at www.christchurchphila.org/live

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