

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Worship at Home: During Our Blessed Interruption
Spiritual Communion
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021



The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest
Priest-in-Charge

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About this Service



Lent

The season of Lent—from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days—spans 40 days: from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, excluding Sundays.

Traditionally, this time of year has been a period of solemn preparation, self-examination, and repentance. Remembering the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before beginning his ministry, some Christians adopt Lenten disciplines: giving up an item of food, taking on a prayer, service or devotional practice, taking a technology fast, or simply setting aside time each day to be present with God and those they love.

Lenten liturgy is characterized by solemnity and simplicity. The Glory to God and the word Alleluia are omitted and will not return until the Great Vigil of Easter. Violet is the color used for vestments during this season, or, as we have at St. Philip’s, a “Lenten array” of red, black, and rough linen fabric.

Sources: *The Book of Common Prayer* and
An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People: *Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.*

The Decalogue

Celebrant: 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.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: You shall not commit murder.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Summary of the Law

Mark 12:29-31

Celebrant 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." **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

**All: 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.**

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

Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect for the Commemoration of The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris

Ever living God, in every generation you cause fresh winds to renew, refresh, and refine your people and in your Word summon us to live courageously as Easter people in an often Good Friday world. Defend us in our own day to make no peace with oppression; that boldly following the example of your servant Barbara Clementine Harris, chosen bishop in your church, we may strive not for ease or fame but gladly toil and walk with you all along our pilgrim journey; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Confitemini Domino

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Epistle***Ephesians 2:1-10***

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John

People: Glory to you Lord Christ

Gospel***John 3:14-21***

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright,
Bishop of Atlanta

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 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.***

Prayers of the People

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world,
and all in need. *A brief silence.*

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your
church a community of forgiveness through-out the world. Give your people
courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless
ministries of repentance and reconciliation.

God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

You fill the earth-from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder-with your
presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant
weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms,
flooding, and wildfires. God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body especially Denise Brown, Carrie Cousar, Letha Cousar, Janette Davis, Doris Dickerson, Christina Foster, Christine Forrest, Eudora Forrest, Lewis Forrest, Eva Hicks, Floyd Higgs, Eli Kince, Mary Little, Adrienne Lockett, Jonathan Lyles, Clarissa Martin, Haywood McCallum, Johnetta Merritt, Lela A. Morris, Lela Saberna Morris, Roscoe Parker, Beblon Parks, Irma Dyson Robinson, Mark Robinson, Frank Saunders, Dora Sims, Amy Smith, James Smith, Pam Southall, Patty Sydnor, Ed West, Marilyn West, and those who are dying, and all who grieve. God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Elliot Jones, Mark Jones, Reagan Stokes, Telitha Taylor, Makenzie Washington, Sarah McDermott, Lorraine Fassett Cassandra Watt, Scott Carter as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon your servants; Thomas and Diane Beatty, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you. God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died, especially, Glorious Bennett, O'Neal Dickerson, and Anna Washington. In Christ, bring us into life everlasting. God of Promise.

Hear our Prayer.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Offertory

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the gifts we give. All are invited to make a gift to support St. Philip's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. See our website, stphilipsrva.org for ways to give. The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

Musical Offering

"Lift Him Up"

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 God thanks and praise.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Celebrant: 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 was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: 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:

**All: Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: 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.**

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

*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.***

Agnus Dei - Lamb of God [said]

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, **have mercy on us.***

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, **have mercy on us.***

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, **grant us peace.***

Invitation to Holy Communion

Spiritual Communion is personal devotional that we can pray at any time to express our desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede us from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Celebrant and People:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the People

**Celebrant: Bow down before the Lord.
Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. *Amen. Amen.***

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Today We Commemorate the Life and Ministry of The Rt. Rev. Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris



Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris was born on June 12, 1930 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Harris grew up in Germantown, a neighborhood of Philadelphia. Her mother, Beatrice Price Harris, played the organ for St. Baranabas Church and her father, Walter Harris, was a steel worker. While attending Philadelphia High School for Girls, where she excelled in music, Harris wrote a weekly column called *High School Notes by Bobbi* for the Philadelphia edition of the *Pittsburgh Courier*, an African American newspaper. After graduating from high school in 1948, she attended the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism. She earned a certificate from Charles Morris Price in 1950. In later years, Harris would study at Villanova University and the Episcopal Divinity School.

As a member of the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity (ESCRU) since the late 1950s, Harris served on a number of diocesan committees. In the 1960s, she helped to form the Union of Black Clergy and Laity which was subsequently called the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE). She was a member of the St. Dismas Fellowship and served on the board of the Pennsylvania Prison Society. During the summer of 1964, Harris volunteered with Delta Ministries in Greenville, Mississippi, educating and registering voters. In 1974, she advocated for the ordination of the "Philadelphia Eleven," a group of women who had been ordained priests, but were labeled "irregular" by the Anglican Communion. By 1976, the church began to admit women priests and, in October 1980, Harris was ordained as a priest. After her ordination, she served as priest at St. Augustine of Hippo Church and as chaplain of Philadelphia County Prison.



In 1984, Harris was appointed executive director of the Episcopal Church Publishing Company, molding the social direction of the Episcopal Church. Known for her strong advocacy for social justice, Harris was elected in 1988 as the consecrated Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, becoming the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion. She served as bishop until 2002 when she retired at the age of seventy-two. Harris is the recipient of numerous honors including an honorary degree from Yale University's Divinity School and the 2007 Wisdom Award from the National Visionary Leadership Project. After suffering a stroke in 2010, Harris made a full recovery and continued to advocate for social change until her death on March 13, 2020.



| Virtual Worship, Prayer, Bible Study and more | Time | Phone | St. Philip's Website or Facebook Live | Zoom |
|---|----------|---|--|---|
| Sunday Bible Study | 9 AM | Dial: 978-990-5000 Access code: 656298 # | - | - |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 10 AM | Dial: 1-301-715-8592 ID: 937 9611 8377 Password: 074878 | Go to our website: stphilipsrva.org or our Facebook page: St. Philip's Episcopal RVA | Meeting ID: 937 9611 8377 Password: 074878 |
| 1 st & 3 rd Sundays Only Youth Sunday School | 11:15 AM | - | | Meeting ID: 894 3313 5393 Password: Jesus |
| Tuesday Night Prayer | 8 PM | - | Go to our website: stphilipsrva.org or our Facebook page: St. Philip's Episcopal RVA | - |
| Wednesday Circle of Love Noonday Prayer | 12 PM | Dial: 978-990-5000 Access code: 870051 # | - | - |
| General emails from church – Please check often and READ. Lots of church and Diocesan information included! | | | | |