**Christ Memorial Episcopal Church**



**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**The Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawai`i**

**February 14, 2021**

**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

**PROPERS FOR THIS SUNDAY:**

**The Collect of the Day**

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

**The Reading from Hebrew scriptures 2 Kings 2:1-12**

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**The Psalm Psalm 50:1-6**

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; \*he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*to witness the judgment of his people.

5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, \*those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*for God himself is judge.

**The Epistle 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**The Holy Gospel Mark 9:2-9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

**CONNECT**

* **Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent**

Due to Covid, Bishop Fitzpatrick has asked that we not dispense ashes this Ash Wednesday. This is a disappointment to many of us but we want to be safe and cautious. We are all looking forward to next year when Covid is behind us!

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS TO BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT:**

* Where am I spiritually as I begin Lent? When am I more focused on “me” than God?
* Where is God calling me to change direction?
* When I wake up on Easter Sunday morning, what change would I like to see in me?
* Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit?
* Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?
* What practical steps am I taking to carve out time for daily prayer?
* What spiritual discipline can I continue to improve upon?
* What virtues do I want to focus on this Lent (ie: patience, charity, kindness, gentleness, etc).

***If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”***

** *-Mark 8:34***

* **Incoming Clergy-in-Residence**

The Very Rev. William O. Daniel, Jr., PhD will be joining us at Christ Memorial from February 21 to April 25. We look forward to celebrating the Seasons of Lent and Easter with him as well as attending his four-part series Becoming Eucharist: The Movement of Love.

* **Welcome Back Chanterelle!**

Chanterelle will return **February 21**. Our technology guru, Branch Lotspeich and Chanterelle have found a way to allow Chanterelle to play from her home for our 8:00 am and 9:30 am services and appear on our 9:30 am zoom service. We are happy to have her back with us!

* **Thank You Renee**

Renee Janton has been playing the harp for us since Christmas. Her beautiful music has richly blessed us during our worship services, and we are grateful. We thank God for Renee’s time with us and wish her many blessings.

**PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK**

**Healing of body, mind, and spirit for**

Hillis and Dorothy (may they rest in peace); Gae; Mary (late-stage bone cancer); Roe (healing); Nelli (health); Tony (health);Gregg (continued healing of COVID); Bobby (healing of COVID); Nancy (healing of lung cancer); Scott (coping with dementia); Greg (healing of leukemia); Webb (healing of lymphoma); Sarah (peace of mind & to feel God's love);Peter (continued healing from heart surgery); Susan (strength and courage during cancer treatment); John; Michael; Terri (healing of multiple myeloma); Scott (coping with dementia); Sue Ellen, Peter, Xavier, Kelly (healing of cancer); Nancy (during her radiation treatment); Doug (recovering from stroke); Bill (healing of infected shoulder).