The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ
The Last Sunday After Epiphany
February 14, 2021, 10:15 am
Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church!

Thank you for joining us for church today. Our readings now follow Year B, so we will be following the Gospel According to Mark for much of 2021.

We continue to slog through the Coronavirus and church online, raising our voices for justice and opening our hearts in compassion. Although it’s not easy to attend church on a computer, our community is resilient and we’re making the best of a very strange time. It’s painful to close our church doors because one of our calls as Christians is to welcome and love every single person, just as Jesus did. But for the sake of public health and members of our community who are susceptible to this virus, we need to be creative.

We are streaming our 10:15 Sunday service on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CCAlameda and at www.christchurchalameda.org (scroll down on the main page to see the Live Stream. You can also tune in on your Roku device or Apple TV. Search for the Boxcast app, then search for the Christ Church Alameda channel.

Virtual Sunday school and coffee hour will take place after church via Zoom. For more information, contact office@christchurchalameda.org

Here are some tips for participating in the service:

• Please say all the parts in bold.
• There’s no excuse not to sing, people, since there’s no one to make you feel self-conscious.
• Communion is the hard part, since we can’t actually share the bread and wine consecrated on our altar. You’re free to follow along from home and interpret the sacrament as your heart calls you to do. Sacraments are connections between a person and God, so this style of communion may work for some but not others. Once we’re through all of this, we’ll talk about our experiences.

All of this feels surreal. Ambiguity and anxiety are hard. We will stay connected by phone, the Internet, and sometimes in person. Together, we’ll get through this. Please continue praying across the world affected by this unfolding tragedy, and please keep yourself safe.

Christ Episcopal Church
www.christchurchalameda.org

Prelude

Che il bel sogno di Doretta (What is life without love!?!)

G. Puccini

Who could guess Doretta’s beautiful dream?
One day, she fell in love and what could be better!
Ah! my dream, my life!
What does wealth matter after happiness and love!

Opening Hymn

On eagle’s wings, W810

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

2. Snares of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear; under God’s wings your refuge with faithfulness your shield.

3. For to the angels God’s given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
Presider   Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People    Glory to God for ever and ever.

May God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.
Collect for Purity

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.

Gloria

Glorify God, all you works of God, sing praise and give honor for ever.
In the high vault of heaven, glorify God, sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify God, you angels and all powers of God, O heavens and all waters above the heavens. Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify God, sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify God, every shower of rain and fall of dew, all winds and fire and heat. Winter and summer, glorify God, sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify God, O chill and cold, drops of dew and flakes of snow. Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify God, sing praise and give honor for ever.
Glorify God, O nights and days, O shining light and enfolding dark. Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify God, sing praise and give honor for ever.

Confession

Presider: Let us confess our sins to God.

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

The Lessons

The First Reading

2 Kings 2:1, 4, 6, 8-12

Lector A reading from the Book of Kings.

Now 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. 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." 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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.
People Thanks be to God.

The Response Psalm 50:1-6

Presider Please join me in saying the Psalm.

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.
And 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.

Lector

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

People

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, 448

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing
2 For us baptized, for us he bore his holy
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
4 For us to wicked hands betrayed, scourged, mocked, in
5 For us he rose from death again; for us he
6 All glory to our Lord and God for love so

Gradual

1 thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of
2 fast and hungered sore; for us temptations
3 daily works he wrought; by words and signs and
4 purple robe arrayed, he bore the shame
5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his
6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trinity whom

1 God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempter over threw.
3 actions, thus still seeking not himself, but us.
4 cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.
5 Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
6 we adore for ever and for ever more.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

Presider The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Christ.

Six days later, 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.

Presider The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People Praise to you, Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephen McHale

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 God, 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 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, God, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son She is worshiped and glorified. She 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

The Presider and People pray responsively.

Presider In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. (Silence)

For all people in their daily life and work; For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation; For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Marc our Bishop, and for all ministers Lay and Ordained; For all who serve God in the Church.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God; And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Presider Almighty God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth and in our hearts: Accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of God be always with you.
People And also with you.

Greet one another in the name of the Jesus! And use nerdy emojis online, too!

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hallelujah L. Cohen
1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
2 Manifest at Jordan’s stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
3 Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;
4 Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light,

manifested by the star to the sages from afar;
and at Cana, wedding-guest, in thy God-head manifest;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil’s might;
where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw.

Branch of royal David’s stem in thy birth at Bethlehem;
manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;
When from there thou leddest them steadfast to Jerusalem,

Anthem be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
Anthem be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
Anthem be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
Cross and Easter Day attest God in man made manifest.
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus
Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver all creation into the fullness of your love, you looked with favor upon Mary that she might bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the gift of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All

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

Lord’s Prayer
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion Music

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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Communion Music

Each of the two themes can be sung separately either in unison or as a round (two voices only: coming in on A1 and B1)
The two themes can also be sung together, preferably with theme I for female voices and theme II for male voices.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.
Blessing

God’s Blessing be with you, Christ’s peace be with you, the Spirit’s outpouring be with you, now and always. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!, 460

1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the
2 Alleluia! not as orphans are we
3 Alleluia! bread of Heaven, Thou on
4 Alleluia! King eternal, thee the
*5 Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the

1 scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the
2 left in sorrow now; Alleluia! he is
3 earth our food, our stay! Alleluia! here the
4 Lord of lords we own; Alleluia! born of
5 scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the

1 triumph, his the victory alone; Hark! the
2 near us, faith believes, nor questions how; though the
3 sinful flee to thee from day to day: Inter-
4 Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne: thou with-
5 triumph, his the victory alone; Hark! the
Dismissal

Deacon: Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Amen.

Virtual Postlude  Hallelujah Chorus  G.F. Handel
Preacher – The Rev. Stephen McHale
Presider – The Rev. Will Scott
Deacon – The Rev. Mary Jones
Director of Music Ministries – Michael Moran
Soloists & Cantor – Eileen Meredith
Special Virtual Musical Guests –
Video Lectors – Gloria Strohm & David Boone
Seminarian – Andrew Schule
Live Stream Producer –
Camera Operator –
Parish Administrator – Pamela Kruse-Buckingham