The 15th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday Sept. 13, 2020, 10:15 am
Welcome Back Sunday
Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church!
Thank you for joining us for church today. 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 2020. 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.
• During the Fall season of Pentecost our liturgy comes from the St. Columba Community of Iona Scotland.

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

Image: Parable of the unforgiving servant, by James B. Janknegt
**Prelude**

**Stairway to Heaven**

J. Page & R. Plant

Andrew Storar, Trumpet

**Instructed Psalm Refrain**

_Eileen Meredith, Cantor_

Refrain (1st time unison; may be intoned by cantor)

\[ \text{Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.} \]

**Instructed Taize**

**Jesus, remember me**

\[ \text{Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.} \]
Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea.
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
Opening Up

Leader In this waiting season – in a time between times – when living seems constricted.
All We gather to honor one who embraced constraint while waiting for birth.

Leader In this waiting season – in a time between times when joy seems curtailed.
All We gather in communion with one who shared a feast while waiting for death.

Leader In this waiting season – in a time between times when action seems suspended.
All We gather to remember one who entered the tomb while waiting for resurrection.

The Gloria

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

The Approach

Leader God of our past, as we recount your story,
All Teach us that waiting is not dead time but dreaming time through which new ideas and insights grow.

Leader God of our present, as we share your supper,
All Teach us that waiting is not lost time but liminal time in which new hope emerges.

Leader God of our future, as we celebrate your Beloved Community,
All Teach us that waiting is not wasted time but quickening time from which new life and love will spring.

Leader God with us in all time, as we look for your coming.
All Teach us how to inhabit this waiting time.

The Confession

Deacon Jesus, through your Incarnation you show us how to live imaginatively, love expansively and act creatively.
All We confess that sometimes we have waited without thought and have stifled possibility. silence
All We confess that sometimes we have waited without generosity and have constricted connection. silence

All We confess that sometimes we have waited without hope and have limited action. Silence

All We confess that sometimes we have simply been too busy or too distracted to wait and have missed your moment. silence

All And so as we look once more for you, forgive the poverty of our waiting, touch our dreaming, stretch our living and energize our action that we may be ready for your coming.

Presider 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 Lessons

The First Lesson Exodus 14:21-31

Lector A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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

People Thanks be to God.
Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Sequence Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
High King of heaven, when victory is won,

all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach heaven’s joys, bright heaven’s Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,

waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of man and woman.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of compassion, he died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray.

Maker of all, in the mystery of your kindness you have bound us to each other and called us to serve the earth and all her people. Hear us as we pray for the Church, that it may be a beacon of faith, hospitality and imagination, imagining the future rather than lamenting the past. (silence) God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In this election season, when everything feels political, we pray for reconciliation in our nation and in our hearts. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved as to love. (silence) God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Conscious of the peace of this place, we pray for the Alameda Education Foundation, Christ Church’s cause of the month, and for those who have no peace because of war, the threat of violence, the grip of hunger, the loss of hope, the pall of injustice and the scourge of pandemic. May the voice of the weary be heard and the work of the peacemakers be blessed. *(silence)* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Surrounded by rugged and tender beauty, we pray for the earth, especially where she is damaged by human carelessness and threatened by human greed; and ask that we may learn to care for the earth as you do. *(silence)* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for the life in our bodies, we pray for those whose lives are diminished by ill health, depression, grief or rejection, asking for the healing, the affirming, the listening which will encourage and restore them. We pray also for those who have died. May they rest in your eternal peace. *(silence)* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Presider**

God, by your Holy Spirit you make us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your love and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in love. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

**Presider** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Greet one another in the name of the Lord with comments and dorky emojis!*

**Announcements**

**Digital Collection Plate**

**The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Anthem**  *What a Wonderful World*  L. Armstrong
Presentation Hymn

Now, the silence, 333

Presider
The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to God our Maker.

And also with you.
We lift them up to God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.
This is the table of Emmanuel – a place where bread and wine remind us how to live and love as those who inhabit God’s time, and work to build God’s Kingdom. A place where we recognize that the one for whom we wait is also the one who is already, and always, here with us. So, come whether you are watching for the dawn, or dreading first light, whether you are waiting with hope, or hiding your face, come with quiet confidence because here is Emmanuel who watches for our coming, and who waits with love and joy to welcome us.

Sanctus
This is the story of God – waiting to inhabit time, who took on flesh and form, and lived among us, so that we might re-imagine life. It is the story of Jesus – waiting to be betrayed, who shared supper with his friends blessing and breaking bread and pouring and sharing wine so that we might re-imagine love. It is the story of Christ – waiting in the tomb for God’s moment, who drew the sting of death so that we might re-imagine the world. It is the story of one who knows what it is to wait, and who shows us what it is to wait well.

And so, taking this bread and wine, we remember and celebrate the waiting which began to change the world; and we join our voices with all who still wait and work for that change to come to completion: And as we follow the example of Jesus, send your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that we may find the imagination, the courage and the strength to use our waiting times to build God’s Kingdom of joy, justice and peace.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,
The table is set; the softening sky announces the God’s presence, and bread and wine declare that waiting is not time frozen but time freed and fruitful.

Communion Hymn  

Jesus, remember me, Taize
Post Communion Prayer

The earth still waits for its healing.
May we who are part of that waiting use the dreaming times to re-imagine the world; inhabit and use the liminal times to discover the patterns of God; embrace and use the quickening times to learn how to live and love; thus may our watching and waiting join with that of Jesus to realize God’s Kingdom here on earth.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

We all are one in mission, W778
Dismissal

Postlude Fanfare from *Water Music* G. F. Handel

Presider – The Rev. Stephen McHale
Preacher – All the Ministries of Christ Church Alameda!
Associate Rector – The Rev. Will Scott
Deacon – The Rev. Mary Jones
Director of Music Ministries – Michael Moran
Soloist & Cantor – Eileen Meredith
Trumpet – Andrew Storar
Camera Operator – Roman Sykes
Reader – Suzanne Storar
Parish Administrator – Pamela Kruse-Buckingham

Please remember in your prayers: