

Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church

A GROWING COMMUNITY OF LOVE, JOY, AND HOPE

*Whoever and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome.
Our message is that God's unconditional love is extended to you right now
through Jesus Christ. Here in this church, God says, "You belong, this is my
family, and you have a place in it".*

The First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Holy Eucharist Rite II

January 12, 2025



GATHERING

Stand as you are able

Natalie Hales, guest organist

Opening Hymn 448, vs. 1-3 *Blue Hymnal* *O, love, how deep*

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

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.*

Amen.

Collect for Purity

Worship Leader:

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.*

The Gloria Hymn # S280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day *Book of Common Prayer 214*

Worship Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Worship Leader: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may

keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The Lessons

All are seated

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear,
for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in
exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your
offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather
you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south,
"Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end
of the earth--
everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 29 *read responsively by the half verse*

BCP 620

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people;
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Epistle:**Acts 8: 14-17**

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Hymn: 637 *Blue Hymnal*

How firm a foundation

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke, (Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22)

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

BCP 292

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

***People:* I do.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

***People:* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***People:* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin**

Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows:

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

All are seated

Sermon: The Rev. Paul Crips

All stand or kneel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form IV

The Leader and People pray responsively

In our Episcopal Church cycle of prayer we pray for the Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry and in our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Church of the Providence of West Africa. Let us pray for the church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage or hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them will be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

THE CONFESSION

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

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.

THE PEACE

Stand as you are able

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

People: *And also with you.*

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself
for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

An offering is collected as a symbol of our life and to support the work of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Doxology Hymn #380

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer

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 him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Lord made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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 Celebrant continues:

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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 taught us, we are bold to *sing* The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn: 116 *Blue Hymnal "I come", the great Redeemer cries*

SENDING FORTH

The people stand or kneel

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that the Annual Meeting will be held after the service on January 26. Please have all reports into the office by January 15. All reports need to be in a word document format in order to copy & paste.

Weekly Calendar:

January 15, Men's Breakfast at Perkins, 8:30 am

Annual Reports Due

Vestry, 6:00 pm

January 16, Holy Eucharist, 11:30 am

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

COMMISSIONING OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

(Inside back cover of BCP)

Stand as you are able

Recessional Hymn: 448, vs. 4-6 *Blue Hymnal* *O, love, how deep*

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

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia.*

Acknowledgements:

Celebrant: The Rev. Paul Crips
Worship Leader: John Sullivan
Preacher: The Rev. Paul Crips
Lector: Marla Norman
Acolyte: Leah Jacquez
Usher: Bonnie Gonzales & Mary Beth Crips
Prayers of the People: Randy Hardsocg

ZOOM

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434718014?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434718014?pwd=eHoxcjdVUJCaStSZHBIWE5FYTFRdz09)
[pwd=eHoxcjdVUJCaStSZHBIWE5FYTFRdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434718014?pwd=eHoxcjdVUJCaStSZHBIWE5FYTFRdz09)
Meeting ID 874 3471 8014
Passcode 802039
Audio Only 1-719-359-4580



The Story behind St. Christopher

One day, a small child came to the bank of the river and asked Christopher to help him across. Christopher picked the child up and began to carry him on his shoulder through the waters. As Christopher walked, the child got heavier and heavier, as if made of lead. Christopher could barely carry this small child who weighed so very much. Upon reaching the other side, Christopher remarked to the child that he had grown quite heavy as he carried him. The child then revealed himself to be the Christ Child, and that the weight he felt was the weight of the entire world on his shoulders. Then the Christ Child told Christopher to fix his staff in the bank of the river and come back tomorrow to see what had occurred. This would be the sign to Christopher that the child was truly Christ. When Christopher returned the next day, the staff had become a palm tree, bearing fruit. It is because of this experience that Christopher got his name, for Christopher means "Christ-bearer."

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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