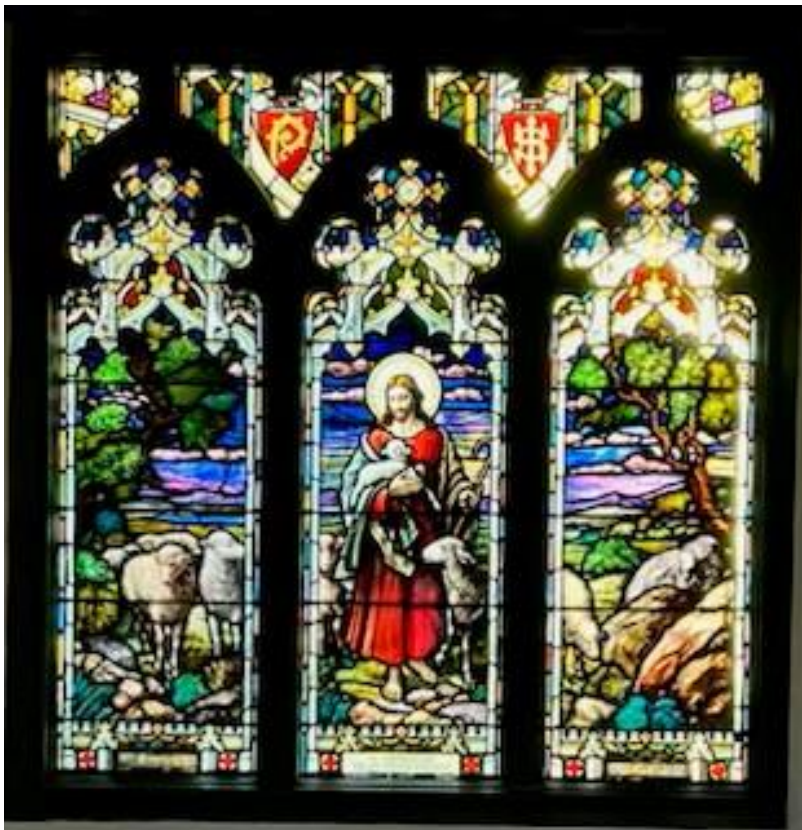


CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

A Member of The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts



THE HOLY EUCHARIST Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 11, 2024

10:00 AM Rite II

Join us on Facebook as we live stream this Eucharist:

www.facebook.com/cgsreading/live/

Wherever you are on your journey with God or toward God, you are welcome here!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Yours Is the Kingdom

Cindy Berry

Welcome

Gathering Hymn

O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair

Hymnal #137

Opening Acclamation

Presider:

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

People:

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

Refrain


GLORIA

Priest or cantor:



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

All:



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

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.**

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

A Reading from the Second Book of Kings.

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia



1. *Cantor, then all:* Al - le - lu - ia, 2. al - le - lu - ia, 3. al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel: *Mark 9:2-9*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you Lord Christ.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner

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 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.

You may sit or kneel for the prayers

Prayers of the People

Form III BC

Leader: Let us joyfully offer our prayers to the Lord:

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Alan and Carol, our Bishops, Martha, our Regional Canon, Sarah, our Interim Priest, and for all the clergy and people.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We remember especially those on our parish prayer list. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give special thanks for those in our parish family who are celebrating birthdays this week: Spencer Dalby, Stephen Needham, Nancy Benjamin, Shaun Neville, Amy Wishart. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give to the departed eternal rest. We remember Mary Atkins, in whose memory the altar flowers are given, and Morgan Cox and Paul Buckley, in whose memory the Sanctuary Lamp is lit. **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

The Presider adds a concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

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

Silence is kept

**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.**

Presider: 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

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

People: And also with you

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Invitation:

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

Preparation of the Table Alleluia, Alleluia

A. D. Miller

Doxology: **Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow**

Hymnal #380, Vs. 3

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God 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 Word 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:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal #S130

We give thanks to you O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will
come again. Christ has died, Christ is
risen, Christ will come again.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men.

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God

Hymnal #S164

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please let the priest know if you need a gluten free wafer.

Communion Hymn: We Remember

The musical notation is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: We re - mem - ber how you loved us to your death, and still we cel - e - brate, for you are with us here; and we be - lieve that we will see you when you come in your glo - ry, Lord. We re - mem - ber, we cel - e - brate, we be - lieve.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray

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.

The Blessing

Presider: The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Recessional Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Hymnal #460

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Sinfonia (Blue p 248)

J. S. Bach

No coffee hour today. Immediately following today's service, the power to the church will be turned off to allow electricians to complete the electrical work downstairs. Because the building must be vacant during this work, we ask that you leave right after the service.

LENTEN INVITATIONS

Shrove Tuesday is February 13th

We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras, Potluck Pancake Dinner Tuesday, February 13th at 6PM in the lounge. See the announcement page in this bulletin for details.

Ash Wednesday is February 14th

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Please join us at either of these services as we begin our Lenten journey.

12:00 p.m. – The Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m. – The Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Imposition of Ashes, and Holy Eucharist.

Forty Days – Forty Items

Wednesday, February 14 is the first day of Lent. Sue Buckley has a challenge for each of us. See the announcement page in this bulletin for details.

Episcopal 101 Begins February 20th

During Lent, Sarah will offer Episcopal 101, a class for adults who wish to be baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church. It's also a good introduction for those who are new to the church, and a refresher for those who have been in the church for a while. The class will meet on Zoom on four Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 20th – The Nicene Creed

February 27th – Polity: How the Episcopal Church is Governed

March 5th – The Book of Common Prayer

March 12th – The Eucharist

And on Sunday, March 17th, there will be a guided tour of the church after the 10:00 a.m. service.

Participants are encouraged to read on their own Christopher Webber's short book *Welcome to the Episcopal Church*, available on Amazon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reading Food Bank: Drop off on Sunday or during office hours. There is a box in front of the side altar. New Needs List: Laundry Detergent, Instant Coffee (regular and decaf), Mayonaise, Crackers (Ritz and Saltines), Paper towels, Market Basket Gift Cards.



The next in person volunteer day will be Friday, March 1st, at First Baptist Church, 493 Main St., Malden
Volunteers urgently needed. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Sharon and Tony Lopes at 978-710-6927, or via email, lopesantonio622@gmail.com.

Bread of Life Sponsors for February: Ruby Cox and Spencer and Sue Dalby.



Save the Date: We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras, Potluck Pancake Dinner Tuesday, February 13th at 6PM in the lounge. Church will be providing pancakes & bacon and coffee. If you would like to bring something, or just plan to attend, please see the sign up on the bulletin board. We are hoping for at least 60 people if not more. All are welcome to attend.

Bring Your Palms to be Burned

In the church year, Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. The word “shrove” is related to “absolution,” as it was the custom in some places for Christians to confess their sins and receive absolution before the start of the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday). Many churches observe Shrove Tuesday with a pancake supper, recalling the old practice of using up fats and sweets before Lent.

It’s also traditional on Shrove Tuesday for Christians to bring to the church the palms they received on Palm Sunday, so that they can be burned and the ashes used the next day, Ash Wednesday.

Though we will already have ashes on hand for Ash Wednesday, we will burn our palms on Shrove Tuesday so that their ashes can be returned to the earth. This is because the palms were blessed on Palm Sunday – anything that is blessed and no longer used is usually burned and/or returned to the earth in some fashion, rather than just thrown away.

So, if you have palms from Palm Sunday, you can bring them with you to church this Sunday and next Sunday – they can be placed in the basket on the side altar. Or simply bring them with you to the pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. And thank you to Jim Strack for arranging for the burning of the palms. ~ Sarah

Forty Days – Forty Items

Wednesday, February 14 is the first day of Lent. I have a challenge for you! Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it into this trash bag. At the end of the forty days, donate these items to the Bargain Box that can share them with someone who really needs them. There will be a basket in the lounge with a bag for you to use. Susan Buckley.

Trivia Night & Silent Auction for Ukrainian Support Project

Friday, March 8, 6:30pm at St. Agnes Parish Center/ 186 Woburn St/ Reading. How can you help? Buy a ticket. Start or join a team. Donate a prize (gift cards, items) for game winners and silent auction bidders. Donate food or non-alcoholic beverages to be sold at the event. Check the flyer on the bulletin board for more details. Ask Gayle Richardson for more information. [richardsongayleg@gmail.com/](mailto:richardsongayleg@gmail.com), 617-257-2271.

The Bargain Box: The Bargain Box hours are every Friday, 10am-3pm, Saturdays, 10am-1pm. Donations can be dropped off on Wednesdays, from 9am-12pm, or during the store's open hours. The Bargain Box is desperate for donations, so please donate if you can. For more information contact Martha at jacksnana1@verizon.net or 781-944-6964.

For Your Prayers This Week: Rebecca Bellistri, Jennifer Bryson, Kim Chabot, Jennifer Chapman, Joe Field, Pete Jeffrey, Gene Kilpatrick, Paul Marean, Chick Meech, Rhonda & JB Miller, Mark Mueller, Mary Muir, Joan Paradis, Margaret Parziale, Greg Powers, Sam Rosendale, Judy Royce, Antonio Santos, Liz Sorrentino, Terry Swanson, Bill Webb.

Birthdays This Week: Spencer Dalby, Stephen Needham, Nancy Benjamin, Shaun Neville, Amy Wishart.

Book of Remembrance: Ruth Wescott, Helen Richardson, Ada Zitzow, Wilfred Pratt, Hildur Anderson, Mary Atkins, Florence Tolland, Arleen Chipman, Joseph Ruscitti.

Sanctuary Lamp: In memory of Morgan Cox, given by Ruby Cox, and Paul Buckley, Given by Susan Buckley and Sons.

Altar Flowers: In memory of my mother, Mary Atkins, given by Sharon Lopes and Family.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: *Churches of the Boston Harbor Deanery*

Our Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, The Crossing, MANNA Community, The Cathedral Chapter, Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry, Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders.

Today's Lay Ministers in Liturgy: Lector: Earle Sinnatamby; Ushers: John Parsons, Tony Silva; Altar Guild: Martha Wishart; Flower Delivery: Kathy McDormand; Lay Eucharistic Minister: Barbara Luddy;

Medical Emergency: *If there is a medical emergency during worship, please notify one of our ushers. An AED is located in the hallway, and they have a phone available to dial 911*

PARISH LEADERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Priest: Rev. Sarah A. Conner
Alice Johnson Hannon, Music Director
Jane Farrar, Pastoral Associate
Jan Kelly, Administrator

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Bargain Box

Friday, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Saturday, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

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