



Christ Episcopal Church
Roxbury, Connecticut

The First Sunday After the Epiphany
The Baptism of Our Lord
January 11, 2026 9:30 AM

A Service of Morning Prayer

Ringing of the Bells

At ten minutes before the hour, the altar candles are lit to signal the traditional beginning of silent prayer and preparation for the liturgy, as aided by an organ prelude. Worshipers are reminded that cellular phones and other electronic devices should be silenced.

Prelude The Chorale *Uns ist ein Kindlein heut geboren* (A Child is Born to Us Today) [BWV 414] of Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome:

Worship Leader Patrick Roy

Opening Hymn *Sing Praise to Our Creator*

Hymn 295

Officiant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together,

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.

The Absolution

Officiant:

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your 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.*

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

***People:* And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit* as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord has shown forth his glory.

People: Come let us adore him.

Venite In Unison *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 29 *Read responsively by full verse*

- 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.

A Reading from Isaiah (42:1-9)

Read by Larry Apolzon

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 19 *In Unison* The Song of the Redeemed

Led by Larry Apolzon

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)

Read by Larry Apolzon

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Lector: The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Hymn *On Jordan's Bank, The Baptist's Cry*

Hymn 76 vv. 1-3

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (3:13-17)

Read by Patrick Roy

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Dona Murphy, Lay Preacher

The Apostles' Creed *In Unison, please stand if possible*

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

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.

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. *Amen.*

The Peace

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

People: *And also with you.*

Please greet each other in whatever way you are comfortable.

Announcements Please be seated.

The Offertory

Officiant: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn *Deck Thyself, my Soul, with Gladness*

Hymn 339 (vv., as required)

*During the offertory hymn, the ushers will collect your gifts and bring them to God's Holy Table.
The Officiant receives the gifts and all sing:*

The Doxology

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

ARRANGED & VOICED BY
GREGORY J. CAVA

INTRODUCTION

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

7
Praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise Fa-ther,

14
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, A - men.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect

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.*

A Collect for Guidance *In Unison*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission *In Unison*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Please stand or kneel as able.

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 Sean our presiding bishop, Jeffrey and Laura our bishops, the ministers of Christ Church Roxbury, and all who proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Silence*

We remember especially those for whom prayers have been requested: Annie, Bobby, Charlie, Chris, David, Deb, Deke, Denise, Diane, Drew, Ed, Freddy, Genesis, James and Robert, Jamie, Jane, Jean, Jeanne, Jeffrey, Jerry, Joan, John, John and Pam, Judy and Mike, Judith, Kathy, Lance, Lily, Linda, Lisbet, Margo, Meg, Mia, Mike, Peter, Ryan, Sheila, Steve, Sydney, Timothy, and those we name before you aloud and in our hearts

Silence

Hear us Lord;

For we put our trust in you.

We pray for an end to war and all acts of violence of one group of people against another.

We pray for peace in the Holy Land.

We pray for an end to the violence and polarization that plague our communities.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

Silence

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Please add your own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Please add your own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon your saints;

Who put their trust in you.

A Prayer While Awaiting a New Shepherd *In Unison*

Loving and Faithful God, You have guided our parish through seasons of joy and challenge. As we wait for the shepherd You have chosen for us, fill our hearts with patience, unity, and hope.

Bless those entrusted with the call to discern and decide. Prepare the heart of our future priest with wisdom, compassion, and courage, that they may lead us closer to You and serve with humility and love.

Keep us steadfast in prayer, generous in service, and open to the new chapter You are writing for our community. May Your Spirit be our guide until we welcome our new pastor with joy.

In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen*.

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

A Prayer for People Critically Ill or Facing Great Uncertainty *In Unison*

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.

- Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book, p.765

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis *In Unison*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

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. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Closing Hymn *God the Omnipotent!*

Hymn 569

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20,21

Postlude *The Chorale On Jordan's Bank He Was Baptized* of Gregory J. Cava*

Ringling of the Bells

Thank You to our Ministers Today

Worship Leader: Patrick Roy
Music Minister: Mr. Gregory J. Cava
Preacher: Dona Murphy
Lector: Larry Apolzon
Welcoming: Jean Blanchard
Altar Guild Chair: Deb Howes
Sonneur: Larry Apolzon Allumeur: Mike Snowden

The Cover Artwork: The Baptism of Christ, Bartolomé Estaban Murillo, 1615-1682

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Announcements

All are welcome to Coffee in the parish hall following the service.

Healing prayer is offered today in the back of the church during the postlude or speak with Judy Martinez.

On the **January 18th**, there will be a service of Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Ranjit Matthews, Canon to the Ordinary.

Next **Vestry Meeting, Tuesday, January 20 at 4:30 PM** in the Parish Hall and via Zoom.

Healing prayer and Compline at Bernhardt Meadow on Wednesday, January 21 at 4:00 PM. Refreshments follow. All are welcome!

The **annual Parish meeting** will be **January 25th** in the parish hall following the service.

If you've not yet returned your **pledge card**, please do so at your earliest convenience.



Christ Episcopal Church

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Right Reverend, Jeffrey Mello, Bishop Diocesan

The Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan