



Christ Episcopal Church

Roxbury, Connecticut

A Service of Morning Prayer
The First Sunday in Lent
9 March 2025, 9:00 AM

Ringing of the Bells

*At ten minutes before the hour, the altar candles are lit, inviting all into a time of preparation
for our worship.*

Please silence electronic devices.

Prelude *The Musetta's Waltz Song* from the Opera *La Bohème* of Giacomo Puccini

Welcome: Jim Stanton, Worship Leader

Hymn *In Christ There is no East or West*

Hymn 529

Officiant: Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

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

Silence may be kept. Please kneel if possible.

Officiant and People together,

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.

Officiant:

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.*

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 is full of compassion and mercy; Come let us adore him.

Venite In Unison

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 91:1-2, 9-16 In Unison

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 He shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

The Lessons

A Reading from Deuteronomy (26:1-11)

Read by Larry Apolzon

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that

time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 14 A Song of Penitence In Unison

Led by Larry Apolzon

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.

Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.

Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

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 Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:8b-13 *Read by Larry Apolzon*

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Hymn *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

Hymn 150 vv. 1-3

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke 4:1-13

Read by Jim Stanton

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has

been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Steve Morris, Preacher

The Apostles' Creed

Led by Jim Stanton

In Unison, Please stand if able

**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.*

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

People: **And also with you.**

Please greet each other warmly. **Announcements**

The Offertory

Officiant:

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

Offertory Hymn *Shepherd of Souls*

Hymn 343

The ushers will collect your gifts and bring them before God's Holy Table.

Doxology

Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Hymn 380, v. 3

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

The congregation may stand or kneel.

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.

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *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 Prayer for Mission In Unison

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the Earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the Nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen*.

The Prayers of the People (Based on Form VI)

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 the mission of IRIS to help refugees and displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, dare to dream and contribute to the vitality of communities in Connecticut and across the country.

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, Sean our presiding bishop-elect, Jeff 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

Gracious God, we pray for those for whom prayers have been requested: Angela, Bobby, Charlie, Deb, Deke, Denise, Diane, Drew, Ed, Eunice, James and Robert, Jane, Jeffrey, Jerry, John, Judy & Mike, Kenneth, Ken, Lily, Linda, Lisbet, Meg, Mike, Ryan, Sarah, Rev. Stephen, Stephen, Steve, Timothy, and those we name before you aloud and in our hearts.

We offer up in prayer Pope Francis, a servant of our Lord, and ask that he recover fully from his illness.

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.

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

Silence

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 them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Officiant says

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.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom *In Unison*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Please Stand

Closing Hymn *You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord*

WL&P Hymn 810

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.*

Postlude The chorale *Ermuntre dich, mein schwacher Geist* (Encourage yourself, my weak spirit) [BWV 43] of Johann Sebastian Bach

Ringling of the Bells

*Front page art: The Temptation of Jesus, Gustav Dore 1830-1883
Permission to podcast the music in this service obtained from One License, License #A-733800, and
Gregory J. Cava*

All are invited to **Coffee Hour** in the parish hall following the service.

THANK YOU!

To all who helped make the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a great success!

Come to Bible Study today following coffee hour. We'll discuss today's Lessons.

Lenten Candlelight Compline will begin on Wednesday, March 12 at 5:00 PM.
Come and enjoy the peace of this ancient service.

Next Sunday, March 16, there will be a service of Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM celebrated
by our guest, the Rev. Jim Wheeler.

The regular **vestry meeting** will be Tuesday, March 25, at 4:30 PM in the Parish Hall and via ZOOM.

IRIS, the New Milford Refugee Resettlement Agency and the **Washington Refugee Resettlement Project** have recently helped an immigrant family from Venezuela to legally resettle and find employment. At least one family member is still looking for work such house cleaning. Please contact Dona Murphy or Steve Morris if you might be able to help.

Healing prayer is offered on the Sundays in the back of the church during
Service with Eucharist, or speak with our healing minister, Judy Martinez.

Help fight food insecurity! Donate nonperishable foods and personal care products to the
Roxbury Food Pantry. Place them in the big basket in the back of the church.

Thank you to our ministers today.

Music Minister: Mr. Gregory J. Cava

Welcoming: Peter Hurlbut

Lector: Larry Apolzon

Worship Leader: Jim Stanton

Preacher: Steve Morris

Altar Guild chair: Deb Howes

Sonneur: Larry Apolzon

Allumeur: Mike Snowden



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Warden: Dona Murphy, 860-354-6760

Warden: Steve Morris, 203-910-3138



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