

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Annual Meeting of St. Francis Church

January 23, 2022



*We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing
witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.*

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



Welcome in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it; please be in touch with one of the clergy or ushers to make this request.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

The hymnals used for our worship service are indicated by their name, and the specific hymn by its associated number. The blue hymnal book located in your pew book rack is the "1982 Hymnal," and the green hymnal book found in your pew seating area is the "Gather Hymnal."

COVID-19 Guidelines

Please follow instructions from the service ushers. The use of face mask coverings is now required for all people while indoors of the church building, whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated. Face masks are not required while outdoors. Please maintain appropriate social distancing in the pews by observing the seating guidelines. Singing during the service is permitted with face coverings in place.

Please note: we are no longer requiring people to check-in and provide name and contact information for contact tracing purposes. In the event it becomes necessary to provide notification of a COVID-19 related matter, the church office will send email notification to the entire St. Francis community. If you are not on our email distribution list and you desire to be notified, please provide your contact information to the church office or one of the ushers. Thank you.

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

OPENING HYMN:

Jesus shall reign

Hymnal 544

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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

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

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.**

GLORIA

Hymnal 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.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and

worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 (remain seated)

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: *1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN: 10:00 a.m.

O Christ, the word incarnate

Hymnal 632

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 4:14-21*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Patrick Perkins

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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.

PEOPLE – FORM III

BCP 387

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

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

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; for our own parish of St. Francis, our gathering today for our Annual Meeting, our clergy, staff, wardens and vestry; for the ministry of unCommon Ground; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments.

We pray for Joe, our President; Charlie, our Governor; and 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.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
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.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others...

...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Paul and Judith Morrisette; John and Laura Murphy; Joan Nack; Catherine Nash;

...for the Hong Kong Anglican Church; for the parish of St. John's, Athol; for the mission of Interfaith Hospitality Network;

...We pray for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Afghanistan, for the refugees of Syria; for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa;

...for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Adam Heppie, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Matthew DiPinto, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, Daniel Roy;

...for those in need of healing; Rich, Sally, Donna Lasher, Mary Ann, Loretta Haynes, Mark, Evelyn, Connie, Sylvia, Jane Williams, Tasha Lucas, Lorraine, Bill Moore, Beverly, Finnbar Moore, Clark, Louise;

...for those who have died;

The celebrant adds a concluding collect

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

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.

The 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

BCP 360

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Lord of all hopefulness

Hymnal 482

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY

Tune: Hymnal 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

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 God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

Hymnal S130

***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.***

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

Traditional

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S164

MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

- Everyone is invited to come forward for the ministration of Communion. Please leave masks in place and come forward to receive the Communion wafer by extending your hands to accept the wafer from the clergy. Please take the wafer and consume it by momentarily removing your mask from your mouth and then replace your mask to its original position.
- For those wishing to come forward to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms in front of your chest.
- As you come forward, please maintain a single file line.
- For those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time, you may express your desire of communion with God by saying the Prayer of Spiritual Communion.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*optional – for those not receiving the Holy Communion wafer.*)

Gracious Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the sacred mystery of the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion. We love and devote ourselves to you and your reconciling mission of love, and desire your presence in our souls. Since we cannot receive the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Christ, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN:

*Taste and see
One bread, one body*

**Gather 814
Gather 830**

*The congregation joins in for each refrain: **One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP 365

Let us pray.

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Christ for the world we sing

Hymnal 537

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.

Thanks be to God.

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness
to
Christ's Love

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