

*The First Sunday after the Epiphany
Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

January 8/9, 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: 10:00 a.m.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hymnal 616

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: 5:00 p.m.

What star is this

Gather 378

GLORIA 8:00 a.m. (*spoken*)

BCP 356

10:00 a.m. (*sung*)

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.

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.**

FIRST READING: *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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (remain seated)

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
withe 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.

SECOND READING: *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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN: 10:00 a.m.

Christ, when for us you were baptized

Hymnal 121

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. S. Jane Griesbach

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

BCP 292

Let us reaffirm our renunciation of evil and renew our commitment to Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

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

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
I will, with God's help.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE 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 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 this community of St. Francis, for ourselves and our ministries;

...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: David, Diana, Elyse and Vivian McManus; Andy, Amy, Addie and Jake Mellors; Jonathan, Christina, Nathan and Zachary Melzar; Elizabeth Mendez, Alivia and Benjamin Dumont;

...for the Anglican Church of Chile; for the parish of Grace Episcopal, Amherst; for the mission of Greater Worcester Habitat for Humanity;

...We pray for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, 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 Heppe, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Matthew DiPinto, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, Daniel Roy;

...for those in need of healing; Rich, Michael, Will, Mary, Sally, Donna Lasher, Mary Ann, Loretta Haynes, Mark, Evelyn, Connie;

...for those who have died, especially Terri Lucas;

The celebrant adds a concluding collect

THE PEACE

BCP 360

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN: 5:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.

Baptized in water
Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove

Gather 798
Hymnal 510

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY

8:00 a.m. *All things come of thee, O Lord. **And of Thine own have we given thee.***
10:00 a.m. 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 5:00 p.m. (*sung*)

Gather 228

8:00 a.m. (*spoken*)

10:00 a.m. (*sung*)

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.

Contemporary

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 us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM 5:00 p.m.

Agnus Dei

Gather 240

8:00 a.m. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

10:00 a.m.

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: 5:00 p.m.

As with gladness

Gather 374

10:00 a.m.

When Christ's appearing was made known

Hymnal 132

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: 5:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.

Songs of thankfulness
Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

Gather 376
Hymnal 512

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.

Thanks be to God.

BCP 366

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness
to
Christ's Love

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