

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022

The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

Year C

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

(You are invited into silence to prepare for worship.)

Prelude

Hymn *The spacious firmament on high* (v. 1 & 3) 409, Hymnal

Opening Acclamations BCP, 355

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One

People: **You come to your people and set them free**

Collect for Purity BCP, 355

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 BCP, 356

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.

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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.**

An introduction: The books of Ezra and Nehemiah form one story. Ezra begins with Cyrus of Persia's decree, in 538 BC, permitting the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple, a venture in which they are to be materially aided. Cyrus orders that the sacred vessels taken from the temple in 587 be returned. More than 42,000 leave Babylon for Judah. The altar is erected on the site of the destroyed temple; the priests again offer burnt offerings. This passage recounts a public reading from the Torah after they returned to Jerusalem and how they wept at its reading.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Nehemiah [8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10]

All the people 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.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People. **Response: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows God’s 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 God set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of God’s 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; *
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 they offend? *
 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.

An introduction: Paul has told the Christians at Corinth that spiritual gifts come through the Holy Spirit and are given by the Spirit, as the Spirit chooses, for the benefit of the whole community. Now he turns to the nature of the Church – using the analogy of the human body. Whatever our ethnic or social origins, “we were all baptized into one body”, into the risen glorified body of Christ, and empowered by the same Holy Spirit; and the body needs various members; so too the Church needs various spiritual gifts, each making its own contribution.

A Reading from Paul’s First letter to the Church in Corinth [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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People. **Response: Thanks be to God**

10 am

Cantor, Jim Roan

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Celtic Mass
Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. It features a change in time signature to 3/4 and a change in key signature to one flat (Bb).

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [4:14-21]

Response: 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."

Response: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Curtis Metzger

(There may follow a period of silence)

Prayers of the People

(adapted from a bulletin Joan LeBaron brought from visiting a parish on vacation)

Holy God, we do not know how to pray, but Jesus invites us into the life he shares with you, and so we keep coming, because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, our desire.

We pray for your church all over the world. We pray for the Church; for Michael, our presiding bishop, and for Rob, our bishop. In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we remember Trinity Church in Claremont. In our Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. On her last Sunday with us, we pray for Rev. Kathy and her new ministry with Church of the Good Shepherd, that she may find abiding joy with her new community in Christ. May the life all of us discover in you bind us to each other and to the world you love, for no need is beyond the strength of your call and no child of yours is expendable. Merciful God, give us wisdom and courage beyond our imagining.

Lord, in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for each leader who might be an instrument of peace. By the movement of your reconciling Spirit, bless your people with the courage to reach past old wounds and persistent fears. God of resurrection, bring life where hope has died.

Lord, in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for friends and strangers in the grip of addiction. Make us able companions for each other, and bless us with hope that bears fruit.

Lord, in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for unsettled economies and those whose needs are overlooked in the choices of the powerful. May we, who know so much privilege, bear our responsibilities with open eyes and open hands.

Lord in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who stand at the thresholds of life: your children who are soon to be born, and your children who are soon to go home to you. We pray especially for the people on our prayer list. Join me if you would like in saying their names: **Jackie Rogers, Liam Ferguson, Ralph Porfido, John B. Avery, Bunny Stoddard, Xondra Smith, Tyler Emerson, Christy Macaulay, Karl Vander Woude, David & Deb McRich, Mark Flescher, Noreen Watts, Sherry Sachritz, Charlena McDufford, Roxy Bowker, Sandy & Virginia Lyman, Anna Hayden, Patti Schaffer, Adon Fogg, Sue Wheeler, Larry Cormier, Lyle Johnson, Amy & Julian, Cindy, Xavi Lopez, Dorothea Williams, Ursula McNiff, Mark Aslanian, Yolanda, Bill Nichols, Bonnie Rochelle, Shari Moore, Andy, Irene Lynde, Carolyn Whitcomb, Calvin Cheney, Shirley Briggs, and Mary Kennedy.** And I invite your prayers for others either silently or aloud. (pause)

Lord in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for new faces to love, ideas to ponder, work to do—and we marvel at the sturdy friendships and persistent memories that sustain us when the way is hard. May each be a reminder of your love and your provision.

Lord in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the gift of song—for notes that speak when words fail, and choirs that practice at the end of long days. Give strength to leaders who call forth the best from us and invite us to breathe together.

Lord, in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

Holy One, keep calling us into the world—your world—as salt and light. Equip each of us for the challenges we will face until we learn to worship in the most unlikely places, for you are the source of our song and the well from which we pray, wherever we are planted.

Lord in your mercy: People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

Confession

Deacon: 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.

Presider continues

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, 361

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

At the Presentation of our offering,

8 am **All things come of thee, O Lord.**

And of thine own have we given thee.

10 am *What star is this*

(vs 5)

124, Hymnal

To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night, to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 2

Enriching Our Worship

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 our thanks and praise.

Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Presider and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

All hold up their bread

The Presider continues

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP, 364

Breaking of the bread.

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Invitation

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God: take them in remembrance that Christ lived, taught, died, and rose for you; and feed on him in your heart by faith and with thanksgiving.

Presider: The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **People: Amen**

All consume their bread

The Presider invites someone to consume the consecrated wine on behalf of all.

Hymn during Communion

Cantor, Jim Roan

Prayer after Communion

BCP, 365

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

The Blessing

Presider and people

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

Closing Hymn *O day of radiant gladness* (v. 1, 2 & 4)

48, Hymnal

Dismissal *Response: Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Music copied under OneLicense.net—License # A-714431

WELCOME GUESTS!

Please join us for light conversation in the Fellowship Room!



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by All Saints' parishioners in thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rev. Kathy Boss.



Bill & Loretta Stride



Bill Stride

PARISH CALENDER

TODAY Following 10 am service, light conversation in the Parish Hall,
NO refreshments.

Tue., Jan. 25th 11:00 am, Centering Prayer
5:00 pm, Dinner Bell, hosted by First Congregational Church

Sunday, Jan. 30th 11:30 *Annual Meeting via Zoom*

Please sign up for Altar Flowers (January—June) on the bulletin board!

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider: The Rev. Curtis Metzger	Deacon: The Rev. Paul Higginson
Readers: 8:00 Donna Alexson	10:00 Camille Wharey Sheelagh Higginson
Intercessor: 8:00 Mary Ann Butson	10:00 Olivia Garfield
Acolyte: 8:00 Mary Ann Butson	10:00 Ellen Rowe
Usher: Jennifer & Jayce Carbonneau	Music: Jim Roan, Organist
Altar Guild: Jody Flescher & Mary Ann Butson	

In the Diocese of New Hampshire: The Rt. Reverend A. Robert Hirschfeld , Bishop
 All Saints' Episcopal Church, 35 School Street, Littleton, New Hampshire 03561
 Tel: 603-444-3414 web: allsts.org email: allstslittleton@allsts.org
 Office hours: Mon—Thurs 9:00 am—1:00 pm & Fri 9:00 am—Noon

The Reverend Curtis Metzger, Rector
 Sheelagh Higginson, Senior Warden
 Verna White, Administrative Assistant

The Reverend Paul Higginson, Deacon
 Lisa Beausoleil, Junior Warden
 Jim Roan, Organist

The Mission of All Saints' Episcopal Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ by practicing our Christian faith through prayer and acts of love and unconditional kindness.