

The Holy Friendship
of
St. James Episcopal Church, Preston
&
Grace Episcopal Church, Yantic



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

January 10, 2021 at 9:00 am

Live stream Sunday's Worship service on Facebook at:
St. James Episcopal Preston *and* Episcopal Church Yantic,

The Reverend Kim J. Litsey, Provisional Priest in Charge
The Reverend Deacon Ronald Steed

Musicians - Mike LaFleur, Guitar & Peter Leibert, Concertina

The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Hymn #119 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

Celebrant: Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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.**

The Gloria

**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.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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.**

The Lessons

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

- 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

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his

sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey

~ A short silence will be kept ~

The Nicene Creed

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.**

Prayers of the People

Deacon: God of light and life may our prayers be lifted up to you in this time hope.

Lector: We pray for your church, for our diocese, bishops, clergy and all those who minister the gospel.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Lector: God of wonder and mystery, we pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Lector: God of abundant love, be our source of joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world.

People: Lord, hear our prayers.

Lector: God of winding ways and straight paths, we pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Lector: Light of all creation, we pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially those for whom our prayers are especially desired --- (please names of those on your heart).

Lord, hear our prayers.

Lector: God of might, we pray for the world, especially where there are economic hardships, injustice, and suffering, far away or nearby... (petitions may be added)

Lord, hear our prayers.

Lector: God of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation

Lord, hear our prayers.

Lector: God of grace, we pray for the land on which we stand, and the peoples, creatures, plant life and waters around us.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Celebrant: God of glorious light, your love inspires us to hope and to bring before you our needs. You illuminate the path we are to follow and open our hearts to dream dreams and see visions of your Kingdom. Kindle that light within us, that in our prayers and service we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

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

~ Silence may be kept ~

Celebrant and People:

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.

Absolution

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

† THE HOLY COMMUNION †

Offertory Hymn #127 *We Three Kings of Orient are*

The Doxology

**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 B

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Celebrant 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. James all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Silence

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and the people: God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Holy Sacrament you assure us of your presence within us, within the body of Christ, and the faithful through all the generations. Grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

A Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: 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.

Announcements

Epiphany Blessing †

May Christ, the son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: *#135 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

The Dismissal

Announcements

Calling those interested in "Sacred Ground"

Are you interested in having a discussion about racism and faith as a region? Sacred Ground is a film- and reading-based 10-week course put together by the Episcopal Church to explore different dimensions of race and faith and the call to become beloved community. Participants will be expected to watch approximately 90 minutes of film before each class as well as read approximately 35 pages before each class. Materials will be provided to you in advance. We would also ask that you commit to attend each session. Sessions will be facilitated by Kelli Ray Gibson, who, until recently, was ECCT's Racial Justice Resource Coordinator, and The Rev. Rachel Thomas. If you're interested, please contact Rachel by Tuesday, January 12 so that you'll have time to prepare for the first class. Classes will be over Zoom for now; class size is limited to 20 people. At this point our plan is to meet the following Sundays from 6:30 - 8:30 PM: 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 4/11, 4/25, 5/2, 5/16, and 5/30. You may find out more about the Sacred Ground series here:

<https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>

The Bible Challenge - Read the Bible in one year!

Join Rev. Kim to read the Bible in one year. "The Bible Challenge" website provides an easy way to read the Bible every day. On the website, <https://thebiblechallenge.org/>, you will be able to read the daily readings, which take about twenty minutes. Also, there is an audio version of the text that you can listen to on your computer, tablet or down smart phone! The website also has Daily Devotionals and a Bible Study Guide! Check it out the website, and if you want let Rev. Kim know you are going to try to do the challenge. Even if you can't do it every day, it is a great resource!