

Welcome to Christ *Episcopal* Church  
Downtown Cape Girardeau

# Sunday Worship

with Holy Communion



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

## Stay Connected

Join us after worship for coffee and conversation. Whether you're new or have been with us for years, we'd love to see you there.

☐ **I am new here.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to:** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Learn more about Christ Church
- ☐ Receive the weekly newsletter
- ☐ Speak with Deacon Carol
- ☐ Learn about baptism or membership
- ☐ Learn about ways to serve
- ☐ Receive information about weekday prayer
- ☐ Update my contact information in the parish directory

## Prayer Request

How may we pray for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please keep this confidential *(clergy only)*.

☐ Share with the parish prayer list.

If you would like us to follow up, what is the best way to reach you?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please tear out this page and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.**

*We're glad you're here.*

Tear along the dotted line

## **Welcome! Beinvenido! Karibu!**

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Scattered in the world we gather together as God's people in worship. We bring the fragments of our lives to be healed and made whole in Christ as we gather in community.

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as God's people. One of the glories of the Episcopal/Anglican Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted.

As we gather, we bring our diverse gifts: gifts of music, dance, prophecy, teaching, preaching, and friendship. We present these gifts in the form of our most precious offering to God, our very selves, that all that we do may be for God's glory in the unity of Christ's church.

## **About Today's Worship**

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We continue our journey through the Season after Pentecost, often called Ordinary Time, the longest season of the Church year. While the great festivals of Christmas and Easter celebrate the central events of our faith, the weeks after Pentecost invite us to grow as disciples and learn what it means to follow Christ in everyday life.

As we gather around Word and Sacrament, we give thanks for God's presence among us and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the week ahead.

Welcome to worship. We are glad you are here.

# Welcome & Announcements

## The Prelude

Organist: Michelle Suhr

## The Processional Hymn

*We begin by praising God through song and prayer.*

**#411** *Oh bless the Lord, my soul*

## The Opening Acclamation

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

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

## The Collect for Purity

*Celebrant:* 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 Song of Praise

**#S-280** *Found in the front of The Hymnal under service music*

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# We Hear the Sacred Stories

*We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors.  
The congregation is then seated.*

## The First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

*A reading from the Hebrew Scriptures.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

*Lector:* Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

## The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 103: 1-13

*The psalms are a part of the poetry of the Hebrew people.*

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
**and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**
- <sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
**and forget not all his benefits.**
- <sup>3</sup> He forgives all your sins \*  
**and heals all your infirmities;**
- <sup>4</sup> He redeems your life from the grave \*  
**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**
- <sup>5</sup> He satisfies you with good things, \*  
**and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

<sup>6</sup>The Lord executes righteousness \*

**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>He made his ways known to Moses \*

**and his works to the children of Israel.**

<sup>8</sup>The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*

**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse us, \*

**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

<sup>10</sup>He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*

**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*

**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west, \*

**so far has he removed our sins from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father cares for his children, \*

**so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

## **The Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

*A reading from the New Testament Writings.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

<sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so

then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Lector:* Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## Preparing to Hear the Gospel

*We stand, as we are able, for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance we place on Jesus' words and actions.*

### The Sequence Hymn

**#674** *Forgive our sins as we forgive*

### The Reading of the Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his

fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The congregation is then seated.*

## The Sermon

The Rev. Jay Kanzler

## The Nicene Creed

*We stand, as we are able, to affirm our faith.*

*Celebrant:* We affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

***People:* 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.

## The Prayers of the People

*The concerns of the community and wider world, including those who are sick, in need, or in want, are named.*

**Celebrant:** Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all those in need, saying, “Lord, guide us by your Spirit.”

**Lector:** For the Church throughout the world; for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, Carol our Deacon, Jay our guest priest, and all who minister in Christ’s name, that we may proclaim the Gospel not only with our lips, but in lives marked by mercy, justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

**People:** Lord, guide us by your Spirit.

**Lector:** For this parish family of Christ Episcopal Church, that we may be faithful stewards of the ministry entrusted to us, serving our neighbors with generosity, welcoming all with dignity, and remaining rooted in prayer, worship, and love.

**People:** Lord, guide us by your Spirit.

*Lector:* For those who hunger, for those who lack safe shelter, for those who feel unseen or forgotten, and for all who carry heavy burdens, that they may know compassion and care, and that we may meet Christ in our neighbors with open hearts and willing hands.

*People:* **Lord, guide us by your Spirit.**

*Lector:* For our ministries of compassion, hospitality, and community life, especially our food pantry, community meals, and all the ways we welcome our neighbors, that the Holy Spirit may continue to strengthen us as a community of belonging, hope, and peace.

*People:* **Lord, guide us by your Spirit.**

*Lector:* For those entrusted with leadership in communities and nations, that in times of conflict, fear, and uncertainty, they may be guided by wisdom, compassion, and the desire for peace and the flourishing of all people.

*People:* **Lord, guide us by your Spirit.**

*Lector:* For those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit; for those struggling with grief, addiction, fear, or loneliness; and for all who seek our prayers, especially \_\_\_\_\_, may they know comfort, healing, and renewed strength.

*People:* **Lord, guide us by your Spirit.**

*Lector:* For all the blessings of this life, and for those thanksgivings we now offer, especially \_\_\_\_\_, we give thanks for signs of God's grace, for acts of kindness and generosity, and for all that draws us closer to the love of Christ.

*People:* **Lord, guide us by your Spirit.**

*Lector:* For those who have entered eternal life, especially \_\_\_\_\_, may light perpetual shine upon them; and for those who mourn, that they may be comforted by the promise of eternal life and the communion of saints.

*People:* **Lord, guide us by your Spirit.**

*Celebrant:* God of all nations and peoples, you call us beyond ourselves and send us into the world in the power of your Spirit: Receive these prayers and strengthen us for the work you have given us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Confession of Sin

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***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.**

*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 Exchange of the Peace

*We are a community of reconciliation and peace; therefore, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.*

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

## The Offertory

*As the Lord's Table is prepared, we offer our gifts and our lives to God in thanksgiving and service.*

**Celebrant:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*The congregation is then seated.*

## The Offertory Hymn

**#587** *Our father by whose Name*

## The Doxology

*We stand, as we are able, to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for all God's blessings.*



## The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C BCP p. 369

**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:** God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**People:** Glory to you for ever and ever.

**Celebrant:** At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**People:** By your will they were created and have their being.

*Celebrant:* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*People:* **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant:* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*People:* **By his blood, he reconciled us.  
By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant:* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

## The Sanctus

#S-129 *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high est.\_\_\_\_\_

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

*Celebrant:* And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*People:* **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant:* Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*People:* **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Celebrant:* Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

# The Lord's Prayer

*The Celebrant then leads the Assembly in the Lord's Prayer.*

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

*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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The bread is broken as a sign that we who are many are made one in Christ through the sharing of this holy meal.*

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the**

**sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the**

**world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you**

**take a - way the sins of the world:**

**grant us peace.**

## The Invitation to Communion

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The congregation is then seated.*

*All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available; please let the Celebrant know.*

*If you wish to receive the bread only, know that you receive the Sacrament fully.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward,  
cross your arms over your chest and receive a prayer.*

## The Communion Hymn

**#525** *The Church's one foundation*

## The Post-Communion Prayer

*We stand, as we are able, to give thanks for the gifts we have received and to be strengthened for Christ's service in the world.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

***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.

## The Blessing

*Celebrant:* The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

**#390** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## The Postlude

Organist: Michelle Suhr

**Thank you for worshiping with us today.**

**We hope to see you again soon  
as we offer Christ's unfenced love to the world.**

## Today's Servers:

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Celebrant (8am)</b>      | .....The Rev. Robert Towner    |
| <b>Celebrant (10:30am)</b>  | .....The Rev. Jay Kanzler      |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b> | .....Kent Miller               |
| <b>Lector</b>               | .....Tabs Snowden              |
| <b>Host</b>                 | .....Tanya Davis & Cindy Maher |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>          | .....Elizabeth Miller          |
| <b>St. Isidore's Guild</b>  | .....Bruce Mims                |
| <b>Vestry Counter</b>       | .....Tabs Snowden              |
| <b>Organist</b>             | .....Michelle Suhr             |

## Next Week's Servers:

*If a spot is marked "Open," it still needs to be filled.*

*If you are available to serve, please reach out.*

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Presider</b>             | .....The Rev. Carol Brazeale |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b> | .....Tabs Snowden            |
| <b>Lector</b>               | .....Brooke Clubbs           |
| <b>Host</b>                 | .....Donna Richardet         |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>          | .....Barbara Giddens         |
| <b>St. Isidore's Guild</b>  | ..... <i>Open</i>            |
| <b>Vestry Counter</b>       | ..... <i>Open</i>            |
| <b>Organist</b>             | .....Michelle Suhr           |



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