

Welcome to Christ *Episcopal* Church
Downtown Cape Girardeau

Sunday Worship

with Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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! ¡Bienvenido! Karibu!

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

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 Gathering Song

We begin by praising God through song and prayer.

#495 *Hail, thou once despised Jesus*

An Exhortation

Presider: Friends in Christ, welcome to this holy gathering. Today we share in Communion from the reserved sacrament. While this is not a new celebration of the Eucharist, it is an extension of the Eucharistic table. The bread and wine we receive were consecrated in the offering of the Eucharist at Christ Episcopal Church by the Rev. Jay Kanzler, and they unite us fully with Christ and with the whole Church across time and place.

People: **Here we are nourished by Christ's Body and Blood, strengthened in faith, and joined with all who gather at table. As we receive this gift of grace, we are sent out to love and serve in his name.**

Presider: In fellowship with the whole Church of God, with all who have been brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship on this day, and who have celebrated the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are called to be part of the body of Christ.

People: **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one Bread.**

Silence is kept

Greeting

Presider: Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.

People: **Glory to God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Presider: 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 *Gloria in excelsis*

Found in the front section of the hymnal under Service Music.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Hebrew Scriptures.

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house

of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

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

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 25:1-8

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

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *

**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O Lord, *

and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *

**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵ Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *

for they are from everlasting.

⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *

**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

⁷ Gracious and upright is the Lord; *

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸ He guides the humble in doing right *

and teaches his way to the lowly.

The Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from the New Testament Writings.

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

#435 *At the Name of Jesus*

The Reading of the Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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

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

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The congregation is then seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Carol Brazeale

The Apostles' Creed

We stand, as we are able, for the affirmation of faith

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

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

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.

**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. 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.

Presider: 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-in-charge, 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 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.**

Presider: 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

Presider: 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.

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us 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.

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

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

Thanksgivings and Celebrations

The Presider invites those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or other occasions of thanksgiving to come forward or stand where they are.

Presider: Let us celebrate the blessings God has given among us. Are there any birthdays, anniversaries, or other thanksgivings we would like to share today?

The Offertory

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

Presider: We prepare the Table and offer ourselves to God in thanksgiving.

The congregation is then seated.

The Offertory Hymn

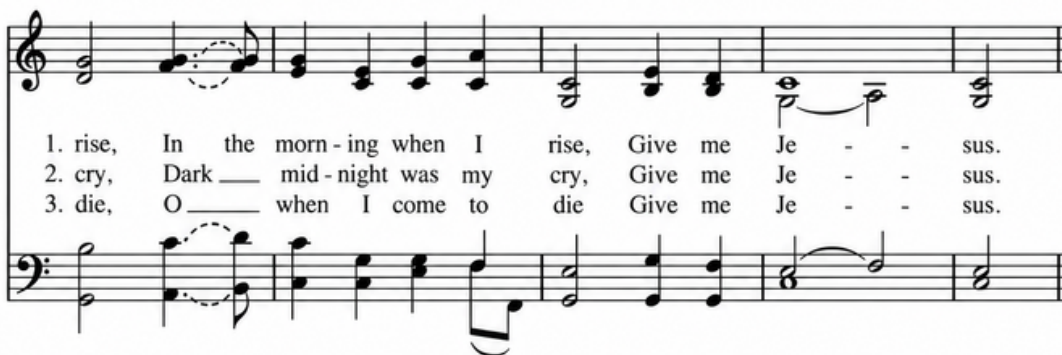
LEVAS #91 Give me Jesus

Hymn found on next page of bulletin

The ushers will receive the people's offerings.



1. In the morn - ing when I rise, In the morn - ing when I
 2. Dark — mid - night was my cry, Dark — mid - night was my
 3. O — when I come to die, O — when I come to



1. rise, In the morn - ing when I rise, Give me Je - - sus.
 2. cry, Dark — mid - night was my cry, Give me Je - - sus.
 3. die, O — when I come to die Give me Je - - sus.



Give me Je - sus, Give me Je - sus, You may



have all this world, Give me Je - sus.

The Doxology

The congregation stands, in body or spirit.



Holy Communion by Extension

Presider: Beloveds, this is Christ's table. Not because we have earned it, but because love has made a way. Today, we receive the holy gifts already consecrated, a living reminder that Christ is not confined to a moment but is present with us always. Risen. Alive. Among us.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: So, with all who labor for your kingdom, with angels and archangels, and with the saints in every age, we pray to you, as our Savior has taught us:

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.**

Lamb of God

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

Presider: 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 make your need known to the presider.

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 Blessing.*

Communion Hymn

#693 Just as I am, without one plea

Post-Communion Prayer

We stand, as we are able, for the Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Silence is kept

***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

Presider: May Christ make our hearts wide enough to welcome the stranger,
gentle enough to speak the truth with love, courageous enough to
disturb false peace, humble enough to keep learning, and joyful enough
that people glimpse the goodness of God simply by being in our
presence. Amen.

Closing Hymn

#400 *All creatures of our God and King*

The Sending

Presider: Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go in peace to
love and serve the Lord.

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

The Postlude

Organist: Michelle Suhr

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

We hope to see you again soon

as we offer Christ's unfenced love to the world.

Today's Servers:

Presider.....The Rev. Carol Brazeale
Eucharistic Minister.....Chris Masters
Lector.....Tabs Snowden
Hosts.....Cindy Mayer, Tanya Davis
Altar Guild.....Mary Mims
St. Isidore's Guild.....TBD
Vestry Counter.....Tabs Snowden
Organist.....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.

Presider.....The Rev. Carol Brazeale
Eucharistic Minister.....Brooke Clubbs
Lector.....Pam Williams
Host.....*Open*
Altar Guild.....Monica Waldon
St. Isidore's Guild.....*Open*
Vestry Counter.....*Open*
Organist.....Michelle Suhr



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