

A large, colorful stained glass window is the central focus of the image. It features a central panel with a dove, likely representing the Holy Spirit, surrounded by intricate geometric and abstract patterns in shades of blue, purple, green, and orange. The window is set within a dark, textured stone or concrete frame. The overall lighting is soft, with light filtering through the glass, creating a warm and spiritual atmosphere.

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church  
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18th 2023

# The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....James Reifinger, Organist  
Eventide C. Hubert H. Parry

Processional.....#540 Awake, thou Spirit

Greetings BCP 78

*Presider:* Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *Psalms 122:1*

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Psalms 19:14*

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalms 43:3*

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. *Habakkuk 2:20*

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. *John 4:23*

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite." *Isaiah 57:15*

Confession of Sin BCP 79

*The Presider says to the people*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Presider and People together, all kneeling*

**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 and People*

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.**

## Invitatory and Psalter

*Presider:* Lord, open our lips.

*People:* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Presider and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Gloria.....Hendricks Insert

## The Psalm

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

*Dilexi, quoniam*

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my  
supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I  
called upon him.
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord \*  
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord'S house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

## First Reading

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

**T**he Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under

the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

[The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”]

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## **Second Reading**

Romans 5:1-8

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we

were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. .

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*The People stand for the hymn.*

**The Sequence Hymn**.....#540 Awake thou Spirit

**Third Reading** Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a

testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### Sermon

Kent Miller

### The Apostles Creed

BCP 96

*Presider and People together, all standing*

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.

### Prayers of the People

BCP 97

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*Presider and 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 Presider then says one or more of the following Collects*

### Supplices A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. **And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider:* God is with you.

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

*Presider:* Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be

spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Collect for Grace**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Mission**

*Choose only one*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*or this*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

**The Peace**

*Presider.* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ. Stay standing for hymns.*

**Offertory Hymn**.....WLP #780 Lord you give the great commission

**The General Thanksgiving**

BCP 101

*Presider and People*



Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

*Presider:* Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Then may be said*

*Presider:* Let us bless the Lord.

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

**Communion Hymn**.....#686 Come thou fount

### **Announcements**

*Stand for the hymn and dismissal.*

**Recessional Hymn**.....#657 Love Divine, all loves excelling

### **Dismissal**

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
*Romans 15:13*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

**Postlude**.....James Reifinger, Organist  
Hyfrodol June Nixon

### This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Preacher</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Crucifer</i>	Chris Masters
<i>Reader</i>	Byron Foust
<i>Greeter</i>	Donna Richardet
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Barbara Giddens
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Toni Alexander
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Gina Thomas
<i>Organist</i>	James Reifinger

# Notes on the Service

## Third Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 18:1-14,(21:1-7) • Ps 116:1, 10-17 • Rom 5:1-8 • Mtt 9:35 – 10:8(9-23)

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This awkward 20th century collect (“through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness”) asks God’s help to perform works which, in today’s Gospel, Jesus commands his apostles to do.

In the chapter before today’s Genesis excerpt, Abraham laughed at the idea that he and Sarah at their age, should have a child. The laughter motif is repeated today as three mysterious guests, perhaps God and two angelic attendants, appear at the nomads’ tent and announce that Sarah will indeed be a mother, a prospect at which the matriarch laughs. The Yahwist narrator is preparing for the naming of their son, Isaac, which means laughter. (See the sequel in Gen 21.) Notice the rituals of lavish hospitality (“hasten to prepare the calf”) and the self-effacing rhetoric (“If I find favor,...let a little water be brought”), the standard in the Near East from the late bronze age, when Abraham is thought to have been wandering through Canaan, until now. It is coincidence that this story about the Father of the Jews should be read on Fathers Day.

Although the reference to the temple shows that Psalm 116 comes from long after the time of Abraham and Sarah, we might imagine their praying, “I love the LORD because he has heard the voice of my supplication.” The whole psalm is a hymn of thanks for deliverance from some mortal danger.

Paul exults that when those who now believe were still sinners, Christ died for them, a singular display of God’s loving-kindness. Paul lists the virtues which the redeemed ought to display in response to God’s love.

Matthew describes Jesus’ choosing twelve apostles and instructing them on how to conduct themselves as they go about their inaugural mission among the lost sheep of Israel, not [yet] outside Israel. Because twelve is the number of Abraham’s great grandsons, the tribal founders of Israel, Jesus is designating his twelve-led community as Israel renewed.

(Reading the continuation of this Gospel is optional.) The apostles are not to carry excess gear. Any town which does not receive their message will face a punishment worse than Sodom’s, suggesting that Matthew thought Sodom’s sin was not “sodomy” but failure to receive God’s messengers. The predictions of persecution sound like Jesus’ warnings about the end of time described in Matthew’s later chapters about judgment day. Matthew reports that Jesus expected the Son of Man to come before his followers went “through all the towns of Israel,” something which must have happened by the time Matthew was writing, making many wonder what Jesus meant.

**Rev. Stephen Weissman**  
Asheville, North Carolina

# Thank you for visiting Christ Episcopal Church!

## **Who are We?**

We are a community, forgiven and loved by God, joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.

Known throughout Cape Girardeau as "the Red Door Church" by those we serve, our mission is to share God's love and grace.

## **When are our Services?**

On Sundays, there are Morning Prayer services every Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Services are held 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. on Sundays and Evening Prayer is from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays.

We are hosting a Bible study group before service at 9:00 A.M. on Sundays as well.

