

A vertical stained glass window featuring a central dove with outstretched wings, rendered in shades of purple, blue, and green. The dove is set against a background of colorful geometric patterns, including diamonds and triangles in red, orange, yellow, and blue. The window is framed by a dark, textured material, possibly stone or wood.

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25th 2023

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Matt Palisch, Organist

Processional.....#372 Praise to the living God

Greetings *BCP 355*

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Gloria.....Hendrick's Gloria

Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of

the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Inclina, Domine

- 1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, *
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *
save your servant who puts his trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; *
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, *
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, *
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, *
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *
for you will answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, *
nor anything like your works.
- 9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, *
and glorify your Name.
- 10 For you are great;
you do wondrous things; *
and you alone are God.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Reading

Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

The People stand for the hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....#530 Spread, O spread

The Gospel

Matthew 10:24-39



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

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

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me

before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me;
and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph or Rev. Edie Bird

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

A//: 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,
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

BCP 387

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: **That we all may be one.**

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
 humbly serve you;

People: **That your Name be glorified by all people.**

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
 Sacraments.**

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the
 nations of the world;

People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Reader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief
 or trouble;

People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into
 joy;

People: **May we also come to share in your heavenly
 kingdom.**

Reader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Confession

BCP 360

All kneel. The Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

Presider 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.

The Presider stands and says

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

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 hymn.

Offertory Hymn.....#675 Take up your cross

The Great Thanksgiving

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People remain standing

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you
alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from
before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and
fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the
splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and

day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Sanctus.....Hendrick’s Insert

The people stand or kneel. The Presider continues

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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.”

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

[Remember (NN. and) all who minister in your Church.]

[Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.]

[Remember _____.]

[Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.]

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

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All:

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 this is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
Then may be sung or said:*

Presider: [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Fraction.....Let Us Love One Another
Arnold B. Sherman Nona Nan Chapman and Kevin Hampton

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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

Communion Hymn.....#321 My God thy table now is spread

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Presider: Let us pray.

Post Communion Prayer

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 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.**

Announcements

Blessing

May Almighty God, who enlightened the minds of the disciples by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit, make you rich with his blessing, that you may abound more and more in that Spirit for ever.
Amen.

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Recessional Hymn.....#537 Christ for the world we sing

Dismissal

Postlude.....Matt Palisch, Organist

This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Rev. Annette Joseph
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Deb Brewer
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. Annette Joseph
<i>Verger</i>	Chris Masters
<i>Reader</i>	Nancy Kennemore
<i>Greeter</i>	Gloria Miller
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Paula Fetherston
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Dana Dickerson
<i>Organist</i>	Matt Palisch

Notes on the Service

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 21:8-21 • Ps 86:1-10,16-17 • Rom 6:1b-11 • Mtt 10:24-39

The 8th century collect assures us that “thou never failest to help...those whom thou hast set upon the sure foundation of thy loving-kindness.”

On four June Sundays, stories of the founding father of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are read. Today's, a masterpiece of psychological insight and pathos, is the casting-out of Ishmael, Abraham's son by the slave girl Hagar, made more poignant by his not being named here. Note that at the outset, a no-longer laughing Sarah saw the boy laughing, i.e., “Isaac-ing” with her son; at the midpoint, Hagar did not want to see the death of her child; at the end, God opened Hagar's eyes so she saw a well. The NRSV translation paraphrases rather than conveying literally God's order to Abraham to “hearken to the voice of Sarah...” and send Hagar away; so the reversal is less evident when twice God is said to “hearken to the voice of the lad,” and save him. Ishmael means God hears. Muslims consider Ishmael their forefather.

“Bow down thine ear O Lord,” Ps. 86:1, might be thought of as the prayer of Ishmael, especially in the light of v 16, “...save the son of thine handmaid,... that they who hate me may see it and be frustrated.” In fact, this generic prayer which contains phrases from many other psalms must have been composed centuries after Ishmael lay perishing of thirst.

In a passage also read during the Easter vigil, Paul asks rhetorically if because Christ exists to overcome sin, we ought to sin. He then goes on to assert that Christians are incorporated into Christ's death and his Resurrection, so we should live as ones who have risen. This poetic passage is one source of the Pascha nostrum, the Prayer Book's canticle used during Easter week as the invitatory at Morning Prayer.

In the sequel to last Sunday's commissioning of the twelve and his warnings of their persecutions, Jesus instructs his disciples fearlessly to uncover the truth, regardless of accusations sure to be made against them. Beelzebul means literally “lord of the flies,” (from which Golding got the title of his novel), a synonym for the devil. Be bold, Jesus says, even though it may cost family and life itself. (One's family could treat him like Ishmael.) This passage may reflect an era when Jews who believed Jesus was the Messiah were being expelled from synagogues to which their families belonged. A convert who would lose his life would be Alban, a Roman soldier, executed on June 22, 303, Britain's first martyr.

The summer solstice was June 21, Midsummer. June 24 was the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist, forerunner of Christ, a feast which falls six months before the birth of Christ, which falls after the winter solstice.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina