

With malice toward none,  
with charity for all . . .

Abraham Lincoln

We worship today according to the appointed order for Morning Prayer, Rite Two,  
beginning on page 75 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
The Feast of Independence Day  
Morning Prayer  
July 1, 2018, 10:30 am

*Processional Hymn:*  
*Star Spangled Banner (1<sup>st</sup> verse).....720*

*The Lord is in his holy temple.*

**Let all the earth keep silence before him.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence. The people stand or kneel.*

**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.**

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 Invitatory and Psalter (*the people stand*)

Lord, open our lips.

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

**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.**

*Venite - Psalm 95.....S 35*

*The Psalm - Psalm 145.*

*The people remain standing and alternate reading by whole verse, first the left side of the nave, and then the right side, etc. All the people recite the final verse together.*

- L I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- R Every day will I bless you and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- L Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness.
- R One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

- L I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.
  - R They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness.
  - L They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
  - R The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.
- The LORD is loving to everyone, and his compassion is over all his works.**

**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.**

The Lessons (*the people sit for all of the lessons*)

*The First Lesson – Deuteronomy 10:17-21*

The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Canticle 9 – The First Song of Isaiah.....SH-18*  
*The people remain seated.*

*The Epistle – Hebrews 11:8-16*

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as

dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Canticle 13 – A Song of Praise*

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you, beholding the depths;  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

*The Gospel Lesson : Matthew 5:43-48*

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Apostles' Creed (the people stand)

**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 Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offering

Hymn during collection:  
*O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies*.....719

Readings from America

*From the Declaration of Independence*

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness . . . And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

*From the Preamble to the Constitution*

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

*From Chief Seattle in responding to an offer to buy his tribe's remaining land*

Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished. Even the rocks, which seem to be dumb and dead as they swelter in the sun along the silent shore, thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people, and the very dust upon which you now stand responds more lovingly to their footsteps than yours, because it is rich with the blood of our ancestors, and our bare feet are conscious of the sympathetic touch.

*From Martin Luther King's Letter from the Birmingham Jail*

I have tried to say that [our] normal and healthy discontent can be channeled into the creative outlet of nonviolent direct action. And now this approach is being termed extremist. But though I was initially disappointed at being categorized as an extremist, as I continued to think about the matter I gradually gained a measure of satisfaction from the label.

Was not Jesus an extremist for love: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Was not Amos an extremist for justice: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." Was not Paul an extremist for the Christian gospel: "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Was not Martin Luther an extremist: "Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God." And John Bunyan: "I will stay in jail to the end of my days before I make a butchery of my conscience." And Abraham Lincoln: "This nation cannot survive half slave and half free." And Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal . . ."

So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?

*From Ronald Reagan's 2nd Inaugural Address*

We hear again the echoes of our past: a general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge; a lonely President paces the darkened halls and ponders his struggle to preserve the Union; the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other; a settler pushes west and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air.

It is the American sound. It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent, and fair. That's our heritage; that is our song. We sing it still. For all our problems, our differences, we are together as of old, as we raise

our voices to the God who is the Author of this most tender music. And may He continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our sound—sound in unity, affection, and love—one people under God, dedicated to the dream of freedom that He has placed in the human heart, called upon now to pass that dream on to a waiting and hopeful world.

*From Abraham Lincoln's 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address*

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

*The people sit in silence*

God bless America  
Land that I love  
Stand beside her  
And guide her  
Through the night with the light from above.

From the mountains  
To the prairies  
To the oceans  
White with foam  
God bless America  
My home sweet home.  
God bless America  
My home sweet home.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**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.**

### *Suffrage*

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

### *Collect of the Day*

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### *Collects*

Dear Lord, in accordance with the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose. For the Ministry of the University of the South, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Seminary. Good Shepherd, Decatur, and Good Shepherd, Montgomery.

We pray for Sam Jones, Jean Kerr, Barbara Trogon, Hugh Thompson, Jere Van Etten, Eddie Harper, Greg Dubay, our Beans & Rice clients, and the family of Barbara Dennis, still recovering from a house fire, and the others we now name . . .

We pray for the souls of those who have died, including these we now name . . .

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *Prayer for Mission*

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.**

### *The General Thanksgiving*

**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.**

Recessional Hymn:

*God of Our Fathers*.....718

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### *Serving at Epiphany this week . . .*

Ushers: Lavonne Hart and Jimmy Weldon  
Lay Readers: Maurice McCord and Jean Kerr

Piano: Esther Hart  
Refreshments: Jean Kerr  
Grounds: Maurice McCord and Lee Borden

### *and next . . .*

Ushers: Kay and Mike Dickey  
Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten  
Lay Reader: Mike Rallo  
Piano: Esther Hart

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Lee Borden  
Refreshments: Pam and Jere Van Etten  
Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon