

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Holy Eucharist  
February 3, 2019, 10:30 am

We worship today according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.

Processional Hymn:

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*.....448

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

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

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.**

*Glory to God*.....S 280

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (*we sit*)

The Old Testament Lesson – Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the LORD came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you,  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,

says the LORD."

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant."

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm 71:1-6

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be ashamed.

**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;  
you are my crag and my stronghold.

**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

For you are my hope, O Lord God,  
my confidence since I was young.

**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you.**

The Epistle Lesson – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

The Gospel Sequence – Luke 4:21-30 (*we stand*)

Hymn: *Spread, O Spread Thou Mighty Word*.....530

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glorify to You, Lord Christ.**

In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus read from the book of the prophet Isaiah, and began to say, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Sermon                      The Rev. Eleanor (Drake) Whitelaw

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

Prayers of the People (Form II, page 385 BCP)

*In the course of the silence after each bidding we offer our own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Kee, our Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Here in our parish, we pray for **Brian Hudson, Jere Van Etten, Greg Dubay, Barbara Trogdon, Laura Foss, John Haynie, Mike Oniffrey, and Diane Ellison**, and the others whose names we call. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed, including those we name. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

*During this silence, members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present*

I ask your prayers for \_\_\_\_\_ .

I ask your thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Confession of Sin *(we stand or kneel)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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 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

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

Gathering Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*.....SH 60:1

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offertory

Presentation Hymn: *The Doxology*.....380:3

The Holy Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer C (page 369 BCP)

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**  
God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
**Glory to you for ever and ever.**  
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.  
**By your will they were created and have their being.**  
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.  
**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**  
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.  
**By his blood, he reconciled us.**  
**By his wounds, we are healed.**

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:  
*Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord*.....S 129

*We stand or kneel*

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,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**  
Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel; 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.

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

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,  
**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. We keep a period of silence*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: *Jesus, Lamb of God*.....S 164

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.

*After Communion, the people stand or kneel.*

Let us pray.

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

Recessional Hymn: *God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him*.....379

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
Thanks be to God.

Today we are delighted to welcome the Rev. Eleanor (Drake) Whitelaw as our supply priest. Drake attended Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1998. She retired last year as the rector at St. James Episcopal Church in Eufaula. She currently lives in Montgomery, where she enjoys traveling, visiting with friends and grandchildren, and improving her golf game. Drake will return to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at Epiphany on February 17.

Join us next Sunday, February 10, when Sunday School resumes at 9:30 am in the Little House. Mike Harber will be hosting a conversation about Cursillo, a movement within the Episcopal Church that seeks to deepen and intensify the relationship between Christians and their Lord. In preparation, you can find out more about Cursillo at [www.alabamacursillo.org](http://www.alabamacursillo.org).

Each year on February 2, the church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, also known as the Feast of the Purification, or *Candlemas*. This feast commemorates the 40th day after Jesus' birth, when he was presented in the Jerusalem Temple and Mary was purified in accordance with Jewish Law.

The Book of Leviticus mandates that, after childbirth, a woman must go to the temple to offer "two turtle-doves or two pigeons, one for a burnt-offering and the other for a sin-offering; and the priest shall make atonement on her behalf, and she shall be clean" (Leviticus 12:8). The Gospel of Luke describes the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, when St. Simeon the Righteous saw Jesus in the temple and "took him in his arms and praised God," saying, "My eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:30). This blessing by Simeon is the basis for Canticle 17, *Nunc dimittis*, or "The Song of Simeon," on p 93 of the BCP.

<b>Serving at Epiphany this week:</b> Ushers: Kay and Mike Dickey Altar Guild: Lavonne Hart Lay Reader: Laura Williams Lay Eucharistic Minister: Maurice McCord Refreshments: Pam Harper	<b>And next:</b> Ushers: John and Kathy Haynie Altar Guild: Lee Borden Officiant: Kay Dickey Lay Reader: Lavonne Hart Refreshments: Cathy Jones
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