

# Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## A Service of Holy Word and Holy Eucharist: The Third Sunday of the Epiphany

As we gather to worship, let us recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands and traditional territory of the Aspetuck River Valley dwelling Paugussett people.

### Opening Hymn

### Earth has many a noble city

Hymnal #127

1 Earth has man - ya no - ble ci - ty; Beth-lehem, thou dost all ex - cel:  
2 Fair - er than the sun at morn - ing was the star that told his birth,  
3 East - ern sa - ges at his cra - dle make ob - la - tions rich and rare;  
4 Sa - cred gifts of mys - tic mean - ing; in - cense doth their God dis - close,  
5 Je - sus, whom the Gen - tiles wor - shipped at thy glad e - piph - a - ny,

1 out of thee the Lord from hea - ven came to rule his Is - ra - el.  
2 to the world its God an - nounc - ing seen in flesh - ly form on earth.  
3 see them give, in deep de - vo - tion, gold and frank - in - cense and myrrh.  
4 gold the King of kings pro - claim - eth, myrrh his sep - ul - cher fore - shows.  
5 un - to thee, with God the Fa - ther and the Spi - rit, glo - ry be.

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410); tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: Stuttgart, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870); harm. K. D. Smith (b. 1928). Harmonization by permission of K.D. Smith.

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**Celebrant:** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **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.**

### Gloria

### LEVAS 58 The Lord is My Light

*Gray pew card*

### Collect of the Day

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

A Reading from the Book of Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

*Psalm 19*

The heavens declare the glory of God, \*

**and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

One day tells its tale to another, \*

**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language, \*

**and their voices are not heard,**

Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*

**and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*

**it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; \*

**nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \*

**the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**

The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \*

**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \*

**the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*

**sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened, \*

**and in keeping them there is great reward.**

Who can tell how often he offends? \*

**cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; \*

**then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, \*

**O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

**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.**

**The Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Hymn   How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise! (vs 1 before/vs 2 after)   Hymnal #533**

The image shows the musical notation for the Gospel Hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are two verses: Verse 1: 'How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!' and Verse 2: 'To nations of earth thy light shall be shown;'. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody.

How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!  
 their wor-ship and vows shall come to thy throne:

O who shall not fear thee, and thy truth and thy judgments shall spread all a-broad,

Thou on-ly art ho-ly, thou on-ly su-preme.  
 till earth's ev-ery peo-ple con-fess thee their God.

Words: Henry Ustick Onderdonk (1759-1858), alt.; para. *The Song of the Redeemed*. Music: Lyons, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806).

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**The Gospel**

**Luke 4:14-21**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

**The Sermon**

**Rev. John Branson**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP p. 358**

**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.**

**The Prayers of the People**

**Form I**

**BCP p. 383**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of nations & for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this town, for every city & community, & for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those on our **parish prayer list ...** let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression & degradation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

**BCP p. 360**

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 our Savior 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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## Announcements

### The Holy Communion

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

#### Offertory Anthem: Sung by the choir

#### Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name (*Hymnal #S125*)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

**Celebrant:** Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People:** Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

### Fraction Anthem: **The Bread Which We Break** *Gray Pew Card*

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.

### A Prayer for Spiritual Communion *(said by all & found on the inside cover of the bulletin):*

**We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and we pray you to come into our hearts, praying especially with those at home who cannot at this time receive communion. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

*A Special Note for Communion: Christ's table welcomes all. Please come forward to receive communion or receive a blessing. Simply extend a hand to receive communion. Indicate if you require a gluten free wafer. If you would like a blessing instead, simply cross your arms at your chest. If you take the wine cup, please consume it as you receive it and put the empty cup in the glass bowl.*

### Communion Hymn **My God, thy table now is spread** **Hymnal #321**

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with  
2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished  
3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless  
4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren  
well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -  
num - bers let them come and gath - er from their  
world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall



thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.  
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.  
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.  
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).

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**Prayer After Communion**

**BCP p. 365**

**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.**

**Blessing**

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Christ for the world we sing**

**Hymnal #537**

1 Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
 2 Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
 3 Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
 4 Christ for the world we sing! The world to

Christ we bring with lov - ing zeal; the poor, and  
 Christ we bring with fer - vent prayer; the way - ward  
 Christ we bring with one ac - cord; with us the  
 Christ we bring with joy - ful song; the new - born

them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,  
 and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,  
 work to share, with us re - proach to dare,  
 souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,

sin - sick and sor - row - worn, whom Christ doth heal.  
 re - deemed at count - less cost from dark de - spair.  
 with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.  
 in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

Words: Samuel Wolcott (1813-1886). Music: *Moscow*, melody Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916 based on *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1892).

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## Dismissal

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## **Announcements for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP** sheet is located in the narthex. Please consider signing up.

**VESTRY MEETING** via Zoom: Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please email Vicki for the Zoom link.

**OUR ANNUAL MEETING** will be held during Morning Prayer on Sunday, 2/16 at 9:30 am. Committee members, please submit your reports to the office by 2/3.

**GIFT CARDS** to gas stations and grocery stores for people in need are very much needed, as our supplies were fully depleted over the holidays. Thank you as always for your generosity.

## **UPCOMING WORSHIP DATES**

### **FEBRUARY 2025**

**Sunday, 2/2 @ 9:30 am:** Eucharist (Rev. John Branson)

**Sunday, 2/9 @ 9:30 am:** Morning Prayer (Deborah Swann)

**Sunday, 2/16 @ 9:30 am:** Morning Prayer & Annual Meeting (Vicki MarkAnthony)

**Sunday, 2/23 @ 9:30 am:** Eucharist (Rev. John Branson)

**Christ Church Episcopal, Parish Office: 203 268 3569**

59 Church Road, Easton Connecticut

Vicki MarkAnthony, Sr. Warden; Tracy Carlucci, Music Minister

Vestry: Jim Swann, Jr. Warden; Bob Ellwanger, Treasurer; Peg Ellwanger, Clerk

Members: Russ Bailas, Amy Bailas, Marina Philips, Claire Wilkes