



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Offering Companionship along the Way

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Prelude Organ improvisation on tune *St. Michael*

Processional Hymn 601 O day of God, draw nigh

St. Michael

Pastor Blessed be God; Father Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Pastor 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.**

The Gloria: “Glory to God” (*see insert for music*)

Gevert 2017-06

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray together our collect.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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

Psalm 114

Gevert-1

- 1 Hallelujah!
 When Israel came out of Egypt, *
 the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
 and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
 Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
 and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
 O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
 you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
 at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
 and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 674 Forgive our sins as we forgive

Detroit

Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia"

Plainsong arr. Christine Gevert

Pastor Heidi The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Heidi Truax

Moment of silence for reflection

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

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 our President, Joe; for our Governors, Maura, Kathy and Ned, for the leaders of all nations and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our towns, for every city and community, and for those who live and work 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 especially *(we read from the book and leave time for other names to be added,)* let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all those things for which we are thankful *(we leave time to lift up thanksgivings)* and for those on our parish cycle of prayer, Joanne Grafe, Gordon Gustafson and Christine Gevert, Molly Hardy, and for their families, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection (*we read from the book and leave time for names to be added,*) and for all the departed, 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 saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession

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.**

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

Announcements and Thank Offering Prayer

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offertory Hymn 624 Jerusalem the golden

Ewing

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Old 100th

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God 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 stewards 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:

Holy, holy, holy (*see insert for music*)

Gevert 2017-06

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 Ancestors; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of Sarah, Rebecca, Leah 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 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.

Fraction Anthem “Blessed are those” (*see insert for music*)

Gevert 1017-06

Communion Hymn 581 Where charity and love prevail

Cheshire

Here at Trinity we welcome you to take communion with us if you seek a relationship with Jesus. You may drink from the chalice, or you may intinct your wafer. Or, if you prefer, you may receive communion in one kind only, the wafer. We offer grape juice as well as wine.

Postcommunion Prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gates of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Blessing

And now to our Great God who is able to accomplish in us, far more than we can ask or even imagine, to him be glory for ever and ever. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 544 Jesus shall reign where're the sun

Duke Street

The Dismissal

Pastor Heidi Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude Organ improvisation on tune *Duke Street*

The altar flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God

Serving Today

Rector: The Rev. Heidi Truax
Music Director: Christine Gevert
Minister of Communion: Mike Cuoco
Lector: Michelle Sisk
Epistoler: Emma Sisk
Intercessor: Susannah Schindler

Altar Guild: Bev Becker
Flowers: Michelle Sisk
Counter: Bev Becker
Greeter/Usher: Brennan Sisk/Jim Conzo
Verger: Geoff Brown

Announcements

Art Show is open: September 17, 23, 24, 30 and October 1—from 12 Noon to 4:00 PM each day

- Today** 12 Noon Art show open and Vestry Meeting
- Sat. Sept. 23** 5:00 PM Free Crescendo Concert “Fiesta Latina”
- Sunday, Sept. 24** 1:00 PM CROP Walk - meet at Salisbury Congregational to walk on Rail Trail
- Sat., Sept. 30** 11:00 AM Funeral service for Jane Tuttle with interment and reception at Trinity
- Sunday, Oct. 1** St. Francis Sunday—Bring your pets (or pictures of them) to be blessed at either the 8:00 or 10:30 service. Collection of pet supplies and food will be taken for Little Guild of St. Francis

Weekly Schedule

- Wednesdays** Services at Noble Horizons, Geer Nursing, Geer Lodge
6:00 PM on first and last Wednesday of the month, Women’s AA in Walker Hall
- Thursdays** 1:00 PM Bible Study on Zoom Gospel of Matthew
- Saturdays** 9:00 AM till Noon—Bookkeeper, Nancy Hiller is in the office every other Sat.

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<p style="text-align:center">TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 484 LIME ROCK RD. LAKEVILLE, CT 06039 860-435-2627 WWW.TRINITYLIMEROCK.ORG</p> <p style="text-align:center">THE REV. HEIDI TRUAX, RECTOR THE REV. FELIX RIVERA, DEACON AND HISPANIC MISSIONER</p> <p style="text-align:center"><i>Offering Companionship Along the Way</i></p>
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