

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Second Sunday after Epiphany – January 17, 2021

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

Christ be our light, v 3 (*Words on last page*)

Bernadette Farrell

OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant Arise, shine, for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And God's Spirit with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Allmighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17

¹ Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

² You trace my journeys and my resting-places **and are acquainted with all my ways.**

³ Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, **but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

⁴ You press upon me behind and before **and lay your hand upon me.**

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; **it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

- ¹² For you yourself created my inmost parts; **you knit me together in my mother's womb.**
- ¹³ I will thank you because I am marvelously made; **your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**
- ¹⁴ My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁵ Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- ¹⁶ How deep I find your thoughts, O God! **how great is the sum of them!**
- ¹⁷ If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

The gospels are stories of Jesus' life

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

"Greater Things"

The Rev. Dr. Kate Heichler

PRAYER SONG

The Lord is my light (Taize)



OUR PRAYERS

Let us pray together. During the silence after each petition, please add your own prayers. Please respond to: **"Jesus, Light of the World"** with: **Be seen in us.**

Christ, our Light, we thank you for revealing God to us. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways, especially for ... and for all other blessings we name now, aloud or in silence:

Jesus, Light of the World: Be seen in us.

Christ, our Light, sages from the east came to worship you as a light to all nations. Give us peace in this world, light where darkness reigns, provision for all who hunger, and security for all who live in terror. We pray for... and for all other places and people we name now:

Jesus, Light of the World: Be seen in us.

Christ, our Light, the Church was born in the waters of your baptism. Bless your church in every place; make us beacons of light and bringers of peace.

We pray especially for..., that all may serve the world in your name.

Jesus, Light of the World: *Be seen in us.*

Christ, our Light, you revealed your power in the first miracle at Cana.

Thank you for the healing power you give us through your Spirit. Give us the faith and courage to offer healing in Your name. We pray especially for those in need, whose names we see here, and for all others we name now, aloud or in silence:

Jesus, Light of the World: *Be seen in us.*

Christ, our Light, you shone on the Mount of Transfiguration, giving your friends a glimpse of you as their destination as well as their teacher and Lord. We pray for all who have died, that they may know life in your presence now and forever, especially for... and for all others we name now, aloud or in silence:

Jesus, Light of the World: *Be seen in us.*

THE CONFESSION

Deacon Let us make our confession together:

Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other,
that we are creatures who through foolishness or willfulness often choose darkness instead of light.

Here and now we surrender to you
our fears and proud opinions,
our short-sighted folly and misguided assumptions,
our deep-seated sins
our apathy towards change and renewal.

Forgive us the pain we have inflicted on others and upon ourselves.

In the light of your love, restore the hopes and ideals within our souls.

Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray:

“Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us,” through Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen!

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Celebrant Beloved of God, your sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving, and live without shame or anxiety.

THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY HYMN In the bleak midwinter vv. 1,2,4 (*Words on last page*) Hymnal 112

You can make your offering online at <https://christchurchlaplata.org/donate/>
Or text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts.

THE HOLY MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people are invited to participate praying the words in bold type.

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 you Son Jesus Christ. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy (Sanctus)

Kate Heichler, 2000

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. Hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo-ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed, bless - ed,
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Ho - san - na in the
high est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be made flesh from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 to remember 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 for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.”**

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being made holy by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, how and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKS

Almighty God, thank you for revealing yourself through your Word, through prophets and sages, stars and beacons, signs and miracles. Thank you for revealing yourself in the Bread and Wine that we share at your Table and our tables. Above all, we praise you for revealing yourself in Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Open our eyes to welcome your light into every corner of our hearts, that we may bear your light into the darkness, in the power of your Spirit. Amen

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

We shall overcome, vv 1,4,5

LEVAS 227

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

COMMUNITY NEWS

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People **Thanks be to God!**

THE PRAYERS

We Pray For: Those in need of healing – Melanie Coe, Alicia Cordelle, Steve Blamer, John MacCoy, Marion Denniston, Barry Kercher, Beverly Stone, Gary Murray, Susan White, Bonnie Rafer, Missi Fox, Garner Burroughs, Andie Corby, Betty and Peanut Bowling, Susie Marshall, Scott Forward's sister Jane and niece Michelle; and those who mourn, Barbara, Bill, Nancy and Susie.

Birthdays: Joanne Martin (1/17), Bart Richwine (1/19)

Anniversaries:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEET THE PROPHETS! Kirk Vandezande and Rev. Kate will lead our 10 am Sunday morning (and 7 pm Wednesday evening) explorations into some of the prophets of Israel we meet in our readings this season: Who were they, where do you find them in the Bible, what did they say, why do they matter?

COLLECTING COATS AND BLANKETS - We now have a beautiful box to receive donations of blankets and coats, new and used. We are seeking a coordinator for this project, some signage, and will need some folks to assist with laundering the used items, and/or making donations to our Giving Fund to cover the cost of dry cleaning. We can also use help with distributing the goods. Please contact Deacon Joan if you'd like to be part of this ministry to keep people warm this winter.

CHRIST CHURCH TUTORING PROGRAM - Children in our community have a deep need that people in this congregation are wonderfully equipped to meet: offering one-to-one tutoring online. Covid adjustments in our educational systems have left many children at risk of failing. Neal Bankenstein, who works with vulnerable children and families in the Charles County Public Schools, is helping us launch a tutoring program to give kids some extra help.

He and other administrators will refer children to us; we'll match them up with tutors who are comfortable with the needed subject matter, and we'll set up a time for tutoring to happen on Zoom. Karen Hile, a teacher and member at Christ Church La Plata, has offered to serve as a consultant for tutors who want some help. Sign up with the link in the weekly Parish e-news.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – ONLINE Sunday, February 7, after worship

We are getting used to interacting online - so this year, due to Covid concerns, we will have our joint Annual Parish meeting online. Please plan to stick around on Zoom after worship on Sunday, February 7th. Have some lunch or snack food handy; we can have a few minutes of eating and chatting before we launch. We will hear reports from our Wardens and Rector; spend a little time evaluating the year just past and what we are excited about in the year ahead. We will present a joint budget this year, with our common expenses in the center and each church's details on either side. We can go into breakout rooms to discuss details if needed. And we'll elect new vestry folk. Come on along!

DIOCESAN CONVENTION - ONLINE Saturday, Jan 31, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm & Friday, Jan 29, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

As an Episcopal congregation, we are part of a larger entity - the Diocese of Washington (EDOW).

Convention is the yearly legislative meeting presided over by the bishop with the clergy and elected representatives of all congregations. It votes on the diocesan budget and other matters regarding the mission and ministry of the diocese. This year's convention will take place online via Zoom. A link to join the Zoom webinar will be emailed to all convention registrants prior to the start of convention. All are welcome to attend - you can register here.

There is a special program on Friday night, January 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Race and Reckoning: An Exploration into Reparations. The Diocese of Washington will host a candid conversation on the history of race both in the United States and in our local area with Bishop Eugene Sutton of the Diocese of Maryland, Bishop Mariann, and representatives of EDOWS's Reparations Task Force. All are welcome to attend on Zoom - register here.

ONLINE GIVING - You can text a donation - text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts. You can give to Open Plate or toward your pledge. A 2.6% fee is charged for credit or debit cards - you'll have the option to include that in your gift or not. Standard text message rates do apply. You can also give online - go to www.christchurchlaplata.org and scroll down to the "Donate" link.

GIVING FUND – Please consider making a dedicated donation to the Giving Fund, from which Rev. Kate can offer help. Our policy is to help once, as we are able, and deal with repeat requests on a case-by-case basis. You can write a check or give online at the donate page on our website, www.christchurchlaplata.org, or text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts, designating Giving Fund. You now have the option to make pledge offerings or donations online, or by text.

HYMNS

Christ, Be Our Light (v. 3)

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

In the bleak midwinter 1,2,4

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him--give my heart.

We shall overcome

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
we shall overcome someday.

4. We are not afraid, we are not afraid
We are not afraid today.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We are not afraid today.

5. We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
we shall live in peace, someday