



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896 • [www.christchurchmvl.org](http://www.christchurchmvl.org)  
*We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.*

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The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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*Please silence your electronic devices. Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).*

Opening Voluntary

*"Ciaccona in F Minor"*

Johann Pachelbel

Processional Hymn

*"Not here for high and holy things"*

Hymn 9

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

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

*The Celebrant says*

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 in excelsis*

*Glory to God*

Hymnal S 280

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.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Reader**      A reading from the Prophet Jonah (3:10-4:11)

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

**Psalm 145:1-8**      *Exaltabo te, Deus*

- 1      I will exalt you, O / God my/ King, \*  
        and bless your /Name for ever and /ever.
- 2      Every day will/ I bless /you \*  
        and praise your /Name for ever and /ever.
- 3      Great is the Lord and greatly/ to be /praised; \*  
        there is no /end to his great/ness.
- 4      One generation shall praise your works /to a/nother \*  
        and shall de/clare your po/wer.
- 5      I will ponder the glorious splendor /of your /majesty \*  
        and all your /marvelous /works.
- 6      They shall speak of the might of your /wondrous /acts, \*  
        and I will /tell of your great/ness.
- 7      They shall publish the remembrance of /your great/ goodness; \*  
        they shall/ sing of your righteous /deeds.
- 8      The Lord is gracious and /full of com/passion, \*  
        slow to anger /and of great kind/ness.



Reader      A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:21-30)

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Sequence Hymn      *"Rock of ages"*      Hymn 685

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (20:1-16)

People:      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

The Sermon      The Rev. John Adams

The Nicene Creed      *standing*  
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 II

*Standing or kneeling*

BCP 383

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, you are invited to offer your own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops Michael and Mark; 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, especially, *Sue, Julia, Betty, Nathan, Pete, Tom, Linda, Leandra, Austin, Ann, Mike, Michael, Cathie, and Betsy*; the hungry; the oppressed;  
and those in prison.  
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. Pray for those who have died.

### *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      *Kneeling or standing*

BCP 360

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*Celebrant*

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      *Standing*

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

*People* And also with you.

*The Peace may be exchanged through handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, waves, nods, or  
other such expressions; please be attentive to how much or little physical contact your  
neighbors would prefer. Once the Peace has been sufficiently exchanged, the people may  
sit for announcements.*

Offertory Anthem

*O Holy City*

*Brother James' Air, arr. Roger Price*

The Doxology:

v. 3, Hymn 380

All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer B

*Standing*

BCP 367

*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 him thanks and praise.

It is right...the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal S 125

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.

*Celebrant*

*Standing or kneeling*

We give thanks to you ... drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal S 138

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*Celebrant*

And we offer our sacrifice... Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**The Lord's Prayer (People and Celebrant)**

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.

**Breaking of Bread**

**Fraction Anthem**

*Christ Our Passover*

Hymnal S 154

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Celebrant* 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.

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive at the altar rail, kneeling or standing. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. After receiving the bread, you may choose to consume the bread and take a sip of wine from the chalice or hold onto the bread and intinct (dip) it into the wine, in which case please hold the wafer in front of you so the chalice will know to bring you the intinction cup. You may also decline to receive the wine (as the bread in itself is full communion), in which case if you remain at the altar rail please place your arms across your chest to signal the chalice. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.*

**Communion Chant**

*Then shall I not be ashamed*

Psalm 119

**Communion Music**

*O God, unseen yet ever near*

Hymn 332

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

*Once all have received, the celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people, standing or kneeling*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the  
spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy  
mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body  
of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

*The celebrant blesses the people.*

Recessional Hymn

*"Come, labor on"*

Hymn 541

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

*"Toccata in E Flat"*

Johann Pachelbel

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
James Patterson Sutton  
By Jeannie Odachowski*

*The beauty of the Flowers in the Narthex  
are Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
David Joyce  
By Amy, Adrienne, and Peyton Joyce*

*And*

*Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Jim Rosser  
By the Family*

Pray today for the Bishops of the Episcopal Church as they gather this week at The House of Bishops. The People of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop. The Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

Prayer list – please let Deborah know if anyone needs to be removed or added to the weekly prayer list.

### Sunday Bible Study

Our Sunday Bible Study is reading and discussing the Gospel according to John. We meet in the Parish House at 9:30 a.m., and all are invited to join the conversation.

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. - Rite II, w/HE Rev. John Adams presiding.

### **Monday Night Study – The Sermon on the Mount**

On Monday nights this Fall, we are studying the Sermon on the Mount, the extensive collection of Jesus' teachings found in Chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel according to Matthew. We meet in the Parish House for about an hour beginning at 7:00 p.m.; at our **September 25** session, when we will continue with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). All are invited to attend; no homework is necessary, and each session will be accessible to both regular and irregular attendees.

### **Loaves & Fishes - September 27**

All members of the community are invited to this free meal in our Undercroft from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Spread the Word!

**We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. Volunteers are also needed to send desserts and fruit. Please sign up on the Church's website under Volunteers > Loaves & Fishes to help or to bring something.** Donations of either may be brought to the Office or Undercroft in the days leading up to each meal. We are serving dine-in only, with leftovers distributed as takeout only at the end of the meal.

### **Blessing of the Animals – October 1**

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, you are invited to bring your dogs, cats, and any other animals for a **Blessing of the Animals on October 1 at 3:00 p.m.** In this short service, we thank God for the whole of creation and ask God's blessing on these animals we particularly love as part of our families. We will meet in the Gathering Place (the benches between the Parish House parking and Letcher Ct); in the event of rain, blessings will be offered in the Undercroft.

### **Men's Club Dinner – October 4**

The Men's Club will meet on Wednesday, October 4, with refreshments starting at 5:30 and dinner served at 6:30. The team for this month is Kyle Trent and Andy Williams.

*Aaron Rawls, Vice Mayor of Martinsville, will be the speaker.*

Kyle will be cooking steaks and baked potatoes. Please make sure to sign up on our website at <https://christchurchmvl.org/volunteering.cfm?ID=326> (Volunteer > Men's Club Dinner) so we will know how many to prepare. The cost is \$20 per person.

### **Annual Meeting and Vestry Election**

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church (including the election of new Vestry members) will be after the 10:30 service on November 12. If you are interested in being nominated to serve on Vestry, please talk to any of our current Vestry members.

### **Oyster Roast Dinner Tickets are ON SALE NOW**

**The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast**  
is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

**Make your reservation online at [www.christchurchmvl.org](http://www.christchurchmvl.org),  
under volunteers/Dan Prince and Gene Medley Oyster Roast  
or by calling the Church office at 276-632-2896.**

**Your prompt payment is your confirmed reservation.**

**Payment is due when the reservation is made,**

**NO money will be accepted at the door.**





In addition to your presence at this festive social gathering and fundraiser for Christ Church, **we would greatly appreciate your help in making it happen**, particularly if you have not done so before. We need volunteers to help gather supplies, prepare food, and set up the space, as well as clean up after and otherwise make the night run smoothly; if you are interested in helping, please contact a member of our 2023 Oyster Roast Committee. Jay Dickens ([jaymdickens@gmail.com](mailto:jaymdickens@gmail.com), 334-434-9461), Hank Long ([hplongjr@gmail.com](mailto:hplongjr@gmail.com), 276-252-3309), and Pat Bondurant Russell ([patbrussell@yahoo.com](mailto:patbrussell@yahoo.com), 864-430-4527).

### **Bake Sale & Silent Auction**

We need volunteers to help bake brownies, bars, cakes, and pies. Also, volunteers to make soups, casseroles, and sauces. Please sign up under volunteers on our website and let us know what you will be bringing and the quantity. **\*\*\*Please list the quantity you are donating on the email line of the signup.\*\*\*** Brownies and bars will need to be individually packaged in servings of six (6). Generous portions are appreciated (2x2). Cakes, pies, soups, casseroles, and sauces will need to be in/on serving pieces which will not need to be returned to the creator. We will set up drop off for Thursday and Friday, November 2-3. Details to follow!

### **Silent Auction**

If you have any large ticket items that you want to donate, please contact Susan Smith at ([swsmith100@comcast.net](mailto:swsmith100@comcast.net) 276-734-5377).

### **Grace Network**

Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Grits**. For the month of **September: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items**. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

### **Angel Tree**

This Advent, members of Christ Church will be invited to purchase Christmas presents that we will distribute to local families in need (who the Boys & Girls Club recommended to us). More details to come.

## **Sacred Ground**

Sacred Ground (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>) is an 11-part series built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. It is focused on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them. The Roanoke Convocation is offering Sacred Ground small groups over Zoom and in-person beginning January 7; if you are interested in participating, or if you have questions, please contact Virginia Sweet ([virginiasweet2010@gmail.com](mailto:virginiasweet2010@gmail.com)).

### **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Adams

**Reader:** Kelly Cain

**Chalicers:** Jay Dickens, Rives Coleman

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn H. Gardner

**Cantor/Chorister:** Raul West

**Acolyte:**

**Ushers:** Bob Weatherall, Dan Cahill, Kyle Trent

**Camera Operator:** Andy Williams

**Counters:** Natalie Coleman, Ruby Stultz

**Altar Guild:** Team Two – Page Beeler, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Ruth Foley,  
Rita Hodges, Ruby Stultz, Valerie Payne

**Nursery Attendants:**

### **2023 Christ Church Vestry**

**Year 3:** Hank Long, Senior Warden; Ruby Stultz; Rebin Titus; Pat Walmsley

**Year 2:** Ben Beeler; Jay Dickens, Beverly Lyle, Treasurer; Andy Williams, Junior Warden

**Year 1:** Pat Russell, Betty Budde; Natalie Coleman, Secretary; Will Zimmer