



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 27

May 2023

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 



The following is the full text of the presiding bishop's Easter 2023 message, lightly edited for clarity:

This is a different Easter message. I've shared Easter messages from Jerusalem some years ago, and I have shared Easter and Christmas messages from a variety of locations. Last year for Christmas, we were in San Diego. Today I'm in Paris, part of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. We just finished a revival—over 50 young people and some 300-400 people from all over Europe who came for this revival service. It was a remarkable thing to behold and be part of.

The Convocation here in Europe is engaged in incredible ministries, with some joining together with Episcopal Relief & Development to make it possible for resettlement of those who are refugees from war and famine, particularly those who are refugees from Ukraine.

Thinking about it—I realize not only with this view—but with the reality of Easter looming on our horizon, John's Gospel opens: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Then there is a point in which it says, of Christ coming into the world, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it."

On that early Easter morning, John says in his 20th chapter, that early in the morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went to the tomb. They went to the tomb after the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. They went to the tomb of their world having fallen apart. They went to the tomb of all their hopes and dreams having collapsed. But they got up and they went anyway. They went to perform the rites of burial, to do for a loved one what you would want to do for them. They went, following the liturgies of their religion and their tradition, and, lo and behold, when they went, they discovered that, even in the darkness, the light of God's love, the light of Jesus Christ—the light of Christ, as we say in the Great Vigil—in fact, was shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Jesus had been raised from the dead. He was alive, and

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service in-person and
via Zoom

Mother's Day Service,
May 14, 9:00 a.m. (see Music
Note below)

Pentecost Sunday, May 28
(see Music Note below)

Events

Junk in the Trunk, Sunday,
May 7, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Carol's Kitchen, Saturday, May
13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

*(Zoom connection information
at the end of newsletter.)*

darkness and evil and selfishness could not stop him. Love—as the old song says—love lifted him up.

We are here in Paris, this wonderful city. While there are protests going on in the city—garbage has not been collected, and it's all over the city—we are here in Paris, in Europe, with refugees streaming into this continent from all over the world, impacted by changes in weather pattern, impacted by war and famine. We are here in a world struggling to find its soul, but the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it. Jesus lives. He has been raised from the dead.

That is the message of Easter, and that is the good news of great tidings.

God love you. God bless you, and the light shines in the darkness, wherever there is darkness. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Amen.

From Paris, I'm Michael Curry.

Good Shepherd Thrift Store - Your Help Needed!

Now that our popular half-price clothing sale is completed, it is time for our "all hands-on deck" seasonal changeover effort. If you can spare even a short time, your help will be greatly appreciated!

Contact Susan Shultz or Barbara Parsons to volunteer. And may God bless you for your assistance with this ministry.

May 14, Mother's Day Service Music Note

We will be gifted with the music of two talented organists. Friends of the parish, Dr. Jeremiah Martin and Tony Lamberti will be playing the prelude, offertory, and postlude in our worship service. Do plan to come and invite your family and friends for this very special occasion.

Pentecost Music Note

On the day of Pentecost (Sunday, May 28th) we summon the Holy Spirit throughout our

worship and especially in music! The section of our Hymnal devoted to hymns beseeching the Holy Spirit begins with Hymn #500. Some of the more familiar supplications are "Come, Holy Ghost", our souls inspire and lighten with celestial fire..." (#503), "Praise the Spirit in creation, breath of God..." (#506), "Spirit divine, attend our prayers and make this house thy home..." (#509), "Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove..." (#510), and "Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove, with light and comfort from above; be thou our guardian, thou our guide o'er ever thought and step preside." (#512)

Recently, I have been reading the book Holy Power, Holy Presence by Elizabeth Dreyer, a professor of religious studies at Fairfield University right here in Connecticut. She offers insight that speaks to the role of the Holy Spirit in contemporary spirituality based on the wealth of creative language of Medieval writers including Hildegard of Bingen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Catherine of Sienna and Julian of Norwich.

Both Hildegard (Germany) and Bernard (France) lived in the 12th century and greatly influenced the classics of Western spirituality. In particular, Hildegard, was a remarkable woman born into a noble German family and the youngest of ten children. She was tutored by an anchoress (one who lived an enclosed life of prayer connected to a church in a side dwelling with a window to the world and a window to the sanctuary of the

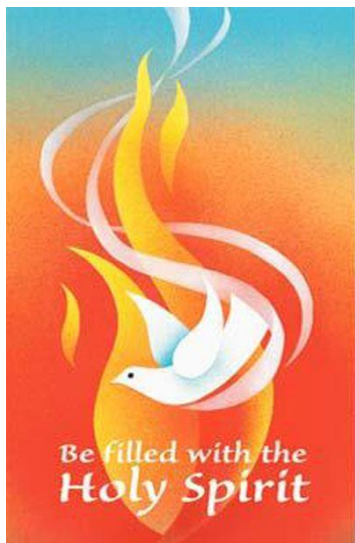
church). She became an abbess at the age of thirty-eight and became known for her visions through the Holy Spirit to "tell and write" what she "saw and heard." Both the Pope at that time and Bernard confirmed that her visions were authentic. Hildegard was truly a renaissance woman of her times - prophet, scientist, mystic, author, visionary, poet, dramatist, and musician! There is much written about her life. Hildegard imagined heaven as a joyous "symphony of the Holy Spirit." In a letter written to her Bishops, she exalted a plea for the necessity and beauty of music in the spiritual life when a sanction silenced music in her monastery as a chastisement for a judgement of error.



Hildegard lived during a time when women were not allowed to teach in church and thus, she struggled with making her visions public. And yet her ministry was to inflame church leaders with a profound consciousness of the justice and compassionate love of

God. Her task was two-fold: to criticize the evils she saw around her and to energize church leadership for reform and renewal.

Music is an important part of Hildegard's legacy. She helped those in her world realize that music is a powerful force in our society that can provide an opening to the Spirit's power and presence. Recall the sound and accompanying feelings of a great symphony or chorus, the soothing rhythms of country and western; the energy of rock and rap - even the dissonances of New Age music or innovative classical forms.



How might the Spirit speak to us through these harmonies and disharmonies? Hildegard invites us through this medium to reconsider aspects of the Spirit's identity we may not have considered before! The following prayer to the Spirit of Life was one of many penned by this remarkable woman:

“Holy Spirit, making life alive,
Moving in all things, root of
all creation,
Cleansing the cosmos of every
impurity,

Around the Church

Palm Sunday



Our Easter Altar



A welcome sign of spring,
thanks to our dedicated
gardeners



Effacing sin, anointing
wounds.

You are glistening and
praiseworthy life,

You awaken and re-awaken
everything that is.”

Junk in the Trunk

Sunday, May 7 will be the first of two Junk in the Trunk 2023 events. The next will be Sunday, October 1. Hours are 8:00 - 12:00. Vending spaces are \$20 or \$30 (for those with tents) and vendors may enter at 7:00 a.m.

April Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, May 21st after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Worship - Supply Clergy are becoming scarce for the summer months so we will likely be having a number of Morning Prayer services. As a follow up to last month's discussion around Communion practices, George will be drafting a poll to ask parishioners how they feel about a few different options.

Building & Grounds - The Diocese has approved our painting matching grant and we should receive the money by the end of April. Jon Heflin, the Diocesan property manager came to look at both the church and 47 Park Place. He was very impressed with the condition of the church especially considering its extensive community use. This gives us an advocate at the Diocese for our building needs. See the accompanying article for more information about 47 Park Place. We have hired a

new landscaper and are looking into what it will take to get the parking lot lines repainted. During this time of "Spring renewal" do let Barbara P know if you see something around the church that needs some TLC or are willing to help with any cleanup projects.

Finance - The Vestry approved the purchase of a 3-month \$100,000 CD so we can receive some better interest from our savings money. This was completed by George.

Technology - We seem to have finally gotten our Zoom sound in the church working. We still need to document exactly which settings are needed to make it work seamlessly but the last three services including Easter have sounded well on Zoom with both speakers and music coming through clearly. We have gotten positive and grateful feedback from our Zoom attendees.

Altar Guild - We received the wrong Paschal candle (our memorial to Richard Mead) and so for Easter Ken refurbished our old one. There are some difficulties returning the one we received so we can acquire a new one. Carol is working on it and looking into other church supply outlets as a backup.

47 Park Place Update

We have received the Architecture Conditions Assessment of 47 Park Place, otherwise known as the Leverett Bradley House. This was paid for via a state grant and is a required first step in being able to apply for historic preservation grants. Thanks to

Wendy Bellmore for shepherding this project. The report is an extensive and detailed assessment of the house (100 pages!) and we look forward to hearing more from the report in future newsletters. There were a few takeaways from this assessment. First, there was consensus that Wendy should move forward with the process of trying to designate the Leverett Bradley House a 501(c) (3). Secondly, Audrey volunteered to purchase some new smoke/CO2 detectors since there are some non-working ones at the property. Lastly, the Vestry approved spending up to \$16,000 to shore up the foundation.

We have one estimate but before committing to that vendor a second bid will also be sought. The Assessment indicates that this work needs to be done as soon as possible as the floors in the house are in fairly imminent danger of collapsing. That means the Vestry felt this work had to be undertaken even though it means the expense will not be able to be covered by any future grants. Instead, the Vestry plans to pay for this from our savings and then work on raising donations to pay back our account (from both ourselves and community groups). Once this work is done, future improvements are expected to only be done if grant money can be used. The Assessment estimates an entire refurbishment will run about \$200,000 which is fairly normal for historic properties and aligns with various grants that are available. Here is a picture of the basement and the

current poles holding up the floor.



**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Spring Training & Gathering 2023

Online and in-person Spring Training courses were held last month. Several of our vestry members and parishioners will provide brief summaries of the sessions they attended.



(Formerly Knights of Columbus, New Haven)

The Pilgrimage Center is the new manifestation of the Knights of Columbus Museum, Inc. established in 1982 as a

nonprofit institution serving the general public through exhibitions of history, art, and faith.

Exhibit - Altars of Reconciliation, March 25, 2023 - August 13, 2023

Artists Erin Shaw, Tony Tiger and Bobby C. Martin explore a theme rarely confronted in the art world: the practice of Christianity among Native peoples

The Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, 1 State Street, New Haven, CT, (203) 865-0400, is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 - 4:00, with free admission and free parking in the lot beneath the building.

Encouraging Words for Spring Audrey Sundwall

Let my teachings fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.
Deuteronomy 32:2

The desert and the parched land will be glad: the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.
Isaiah 35:1

Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.
Zechariah 10:1

Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.
Luke 12:27

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.
James 5:7

Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of the dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.
Hosea 6:3

For behold, the winter is past: the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
Song of Solomon 2:11-12

History Nook - The Pulpit Audrey Sundwall



Like many of the furnishing at Christ and The Epiphany Church, the pulpit has a story to tell.

In an Episcopal Church, the pulpit is placed to the left in front of the nave (where the congregation sits). Traditionally the priest would preach from the pulpit, facing the congregation. Today, in many Episcopal churches, the pulpit is rarely used, and the priest stands at the front of the congregation to deliver the sermon.

Christ and The Epiphany's pulpit started life in 1960 in Christ Church, East Haven, when it was given by my grandparents in memory of my father, Robert P. Smith, Jr. who had died that year. The first picture shows what it looked like when installed in Christ Church. When the church merged with The Church of the Epiphany, and the new buildings were consecrated, the pulpit was moved. You may notice that the pulpit doesn't look anything like the original. That is because the pulpit was stripped of its gothic



adornment and cut in half. The wonderful wood carving depicting the Epiphany, from The Church of The Epiphany was installed in the front of the pulpit, and it was refinished in a manner that would match the Georgian Colonial style of the church interior.

As a child, I thought that it was a pretty neat trick to put the wood carving into the pulpit to fit in the new church. As a adult, I think it probably would have been easier to just make a new pulpit with the wood carving in it, but the intent was to honor the memorial that my grandparents had given. As with other furnishings in the church, the pulpit brought together parts of the two parishes that were made into one to worship the Lord.

A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may

be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bob H., Bohdan and Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Dick, Doreen St. Germaine, Doris C., Ed, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan

Shaffner, John Smith, Joyce Aurelius, Kris, Lauren, Leah S., Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Mike, Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Sallie Alexander, Stanley Rogalski, Susan Diaz, Tim, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested



Next Issue

The deadline for the June issue is **May 23**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	MAR	UNDER/OVER BUDGET	YTD	UNDER/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$7,947.18	\$690.68	\$26,526.15	\$2,544.35
EXPENSES	\$9,200.85	(\$865.19)	\$25,541.28	(\$4,722.45)
NET	(\$1,253.67)	(\$174.51)	\$984.87	\$7,266.80

Notes: Although our building use timing is still off, overall due to our special gifts and warm winter snow savings, we show a year-to-date surplus of \$7,000 over our expected budget year-to-date.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m.

	May 7, 2023	May 14, 2023	May 21, 2023	May 28, 2023
Service	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Presider / Officiant	Audrey Sundwall	Pat Walters	Andrew Osmun	Gail Beck
Crucifer			George Coulombe	
Acolyte			George Coulombe	
Lay Reader	Gail Beck	George Coulombe	Wendy Bellmore	Barbara Parsons
Ushers	Astrid Swanson	Diane Villano	Barbara Parsons	Pat Walters
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz Audrey Sundwall Diane Villano
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters	George Coulombe
Assistant Counter	Audrey Sundwall	Fred Bowden	Melanie Miller	Audrey Sundwall

Christ and The Epiphany Leadership 2023

Vestry Members

Senior Warden (Administration) - George Coulombe (also Worship)	Carol Link-Ude (also Altar Guild, Hospitality, and Fund Raising)
Junior Warden (Building & Grounds) - Barbara Parsons (also Outreach)	Audrey Sundwall (also Communications)
Treasurer - Susan Shultz (also Technology)	Astrid Swanson
Clerk - Gail Beck	Diane Villano (also Newsletter)
Ray Clearwater	

Staff

Barbara Coulombe - Minister of Music	Diane Rowley - Parish Administrator
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Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking

*(See the newsletter, our website, or Facebook page for
Zoom connection information details.)*