



# CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 30

May 2026



## A Reflection on Pentecost

Sharon L. Rodgers

We make much ado about Christmas. Even after stripping away all the hoopla that the secular world has piled onto our Feast of the Nativity, we celebrate the birth of Jesus in myriad ways, not least of which is giving unearned gifts to the people we love, commemorating the ultimate unearned gift to the entire world, that of Jesus himself.

The Day of Pentecost, on the other hand, though listed along with Christmas as one of the Principle Feasts of the Church Year, draws much less attention. This is unfortunate, for the gift of the Holy Spirit is critical to our lives as Christians.

It was Augustine, who died a little more than sixteen hundred years ago, who is credited with referring to the persons of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as **The Lover, The Beloved, and Love itself**. As beloved as Jesus was by the Creator, and as critical

as Jesus is to our identity as Christians, it was the Spirit, who came to the disciples only after Jesus had left them, who empowered them, and continues to empower us, to go forth and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the rest of the world. While Jesus is the protagonist in the Gospels, it is the Holy Spirit who is credited in the Acts of the Apostles with guiding and strengthening the early Church as it spread throughout the Mediterranean world.

The action of the Holy Spirit did not end with Paul's ministry, which is where the Book of Acts ends. Rather, the Spirit, Love itself, is just as active now as it was in the time described in Acts.

Admittedly it may be hard to recognize Love amidst the conflict and hostility that seems ready to overwhelm us at times these days, but if we look inside - rather than outside - ourselves and others, we'll find it. It is the Spirit, Love itself, that connects us with those we love who are alive in the world today whether they live near us or not, as well as with those who have gone before us and those who will come after. It is the Spirit that in our darkest moments gives us the strength to go on when every fiber of our being is screaming, "I just can't do this anymore." It is the Spirit who inspires my

## Worship Services

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

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., **Pentecost** service and organist Dr. Jeremiah Martin

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

## Events

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., The Garage will be open as well as the Thrift Store

sermons and these columns by speaking to me in my dreams, when I'm out walking, or working in my yard.

I grew up singing, Jesus loves me, this I know.... and it is true. It is equally true that just as Jesus loves me the Holy Spirit empowers me to do the work God has given me to do and to be the person God has always intended me to be. The Spirit empowers you in these ways.



## Garage Sale May 23

On the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (May 23<sup>rd</sup>), Ken & Kathy Dougherty will have the Garage open for business during normal Thrift Store hours (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.).

They could really use help setting up the Garage *before* it opens at 9:00 a.m..

## Pentecost and Dr. Jeremiah Martin

Pentecost Sunday is May 24 - wear **red** to celebrate the birthday of the church and the fiery gift of the Holy Spirit!

Additionally, that Sunday we will be joined by Dr. Jeremiah Martin who will gift us with his organ talents and play parts of the service. His talent is not to be missed and we greatly appreciate him donating his time to play for us when he is in town.

## Thrift Store Seasonal Changeover Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped with April's Thrift Store switch from winter to summer clothing. We had enough help that the changeover took less time than ever! Not only did so many parishioners jump in to help but we also had guest appearances from members of the Bowden family (Peggy McLaughlin and Steve Bowden) and Carolann and Kurt Mollor.

It really takes a village but as usual our shoppers are thrilled with the new stock and the overall great look of the store!

## Around the Church

### Easter Prep



### Easter



### Thrift Store Changeover



May 2 - Melanie Miller  
May 5 - Pat Walters  
May 8 - Audrey Sundwall  
May 11 - Diane Villano  
May 13 - Judith Randall  
May 22 - Paul Barrett, III

## April Vestry Meeting

**Next Meeting** - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, May 24th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

**Senior Warden** - Our Lenten Living Compass devotional study went well. *[Editorial note - Thanks to Diane Villano for leading it!]*

**Building & Grounds** - We got a new quote for painting each side of the church (\$2,950 per side). This also includes fixing any rotten wood. Although there is only \$4,000 in the Painting Fund, the Vestry voted to approve having both sides painted. We don't want to incur more water damage and we believe we will get some reimbursement from ECCT.

**Communications** - Flyers for the Thrift Store Half Price sale were made as well as new prayer shawl cards. We received full reimbursement for our new website from ECCT's grant program! We are still accepting photos from parishioners for the website.

**Thrift Store** - The Half Price sale and the Season Clothing switch to summer inventory both went well but meant for a busy month in the Thrift Store.

**General** - The opening Vestry biblical reflection went well and we have a number of non-Vestry parishioners join us. Please join us again in May!



May 19 - Erick & Diane Villano  
May 30 - Tony & Jill Lamberti  
May 31 - Brad & Evelyn Conant

## Remember Mother's Day Sunday May 10



## Encouraging Words

**Audrey Sundwall**

Honor your father and mother as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

---Deuteronomy 5:16

I have no greater joy than this. To hear that my children are walking in the truth.

---3 John 1:4

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

--- Proverbs 31:25-26

When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.

--- John 16:21

Train children in the right way, and when old, and they will not stray.

---Proverbs 22:6

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.

---Isaiah 66:13

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

---Proverbs 31:31

## Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Amanda, Amy, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Beth Flynn, Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie & Kris Langlan, Chris, Chris T., David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Debbie, Debbie Potrepka, Donna Hodge & Family, Dot Logan, Ed, Elaine, Elizabeth Mary Lalor, Erick Villano, Family in Ukraine, Francesca, Gail, Gail & Marnie, Geneva O'Donnell, Hal Levi, Holly Chickos, Holly, Jan McDonald, Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, John, Judy C., Kathy, Kathy Guida, Kira, Korey Mollor, Kris, Larry L., Lauren, Levi-Verderame Family, Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Maureen McPherson, Mike, Mila, Minogue Family, Fr. Moses Aderibole, Nate & Tyler McDonald, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Regina Schwall, Richard Testa, Sallie Alexander, Sam W., Susan Diaz, 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.

## Red Dress Sunday May 3



**SPIRITUAL PRACTICES  
IN A  
NEW MISSIONAL AGE**



**LISTENING**

We listen to God by dwelling in God's Word, and in stories of God in our lives and in our neighborhoods.

**DISCERNING**

As we hear from God and one another, we ponder how God might be calling us to take action in the world.

**TRYING ON**

We experiment with new ways of joining in God's mission, trusting that God uses our failures as well as our successes.

**REFLECTING**

We wonder about what God is up to in our lives and in the world.

**DECIDING**

We adopt new ways of being the Body of Christ as we listen, discern, try on, and reflect.



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT**  
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

♥ Mother ♥

There is no love, like a mother's love,  
No stronger bond on earth...  
Like the precious bond that comes from God,  
To a mother when she gives birth.  
A mother's love is forever strong,  
Never changing for all time...  
And when her children need her most,  
A mother's love will shine.  
God bless these special mothers,  
God bless them every one...  
For all the tears and heartache,  
And for the special work they've done.  
When her days on earth are over,  
A mother's love lives on...  
Through many generations,  
With God's blessings on each one.  
Be thankful for our mothers,  
For they love with a higher love...  
From the power God has given,  
And the strength from up above.

--anonymous



*To Remember*

Only God turns a mess into a message  
A test into a testimony  
A trial into a triumph  
A victim into a victory

There is no pit so deep that God's love  
is not deeper still.

-- Corrie ten Boom



## Tea Party!

*When: Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm*

*Where: Christ and The Epiphany Church*

*Reservations: [clinkeru2@gmail.com](mailto:clinkeru2@gmail.com)*

*Cost: \$10.00 – pay at the door*

*Serving tea, tea sandwiches, fancy desserts and specialties*

*Welcome to both ladies and gents*

*Raffles and a silly hat contest*

*Come and enjoy a fun time.*

## Easter Sunday



### SAFE CHURCH TRAINING SCHEDULE (MAY)

Safe Church Certification is a requirement of The Episcopal Church for all persons serving in these roles/areas: Acolyte, Altar Guild, Bible Study, Communications, Crucifer, Fund Raising, Hospitality, Lay Reader, Music, Officiant, Pastoral Visitor, Property Management, Technology, Thrift Store, Treasurer, Usher, Warden, or Worship Committee. Comprehensive trainings take about five hours to complete and are done once. Recertification training is done every three years after the comprehensive training is completed.

May 4, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Recertification via Zoom

May 21, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Recertification via Zoom

May 31, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Comprehensive via Zoom

June 14, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Comprehensive in-person (Christ Church Guilford)

Register online at [www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org)

## ECCT 2025-2026 Prayer Cycle



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT  
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

May 3	<p><b>Parishes:</b> St. Peter's Grace, Monroe; St. Mark's, Mystic; St. Michael's, Naugatuck  <b>Additionally:</b> Retirement communities, especially Armsmear &amp; Seabury Retirement community; chaplains at retirement communities, Retired Clergy Chaplains. For Elder Ministry Network  <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Church of North India</p>
May 10	<p><b>Parishes:</b> St. Mark's, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; St. John's, New Haven  <b>Additionally:</b> Parish prayer groups, intercessory prayer chains, healing prayer groups, parish &amp; community Bible studies  <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Church of Pakistan (United)</p>
May 17	<p><b>Parishes:</b> St. Luke's, New Haven; St. Paul &amp; St. James, New Haven; St. Thomas's, New Haven  <b>Additionally:</b> Regional Deans, Clergy peer groups &amp; the Clergy Family Assistance Program  <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</p>
May 24	<p><b>Parishes:</b> Trinity, New Haven; St. James, New London; St. John's, New Milford  <b>Additionally:</b> Those in discernment and preparing for ordination  <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Episcopal Church in the Philippines</p>
May 31	<p><b>Parishes:</b> Trinity, Newtown; St. John's, Niantic; Zion, North Branford  <b>Additionally:</b> Companions in Mission for Publishing &amp; Communication, those who work &amp; volunteer in church communications. Digital ministries, online social networks &amp; communities  <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda</p>

### Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	MAR	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$ 16,006.46	\$ 7,716.46	\$ 37,155.59	\$ 6,650.59
EXPENSES	\$ 12,993.62	\$ 2,903.72	\$ 43,779.65	\$ 6,009.95
NET	\$ 3,012.84	\$ 4,812.74	(\$ 6,624.06)	\$ 640.64

Notes: Most of our unexpected income is due to timing but about \$2,000 is due to actual new income received (new building rentals and a special gift). As usual our expenses were primarily off budget due to the snowy winter and high cost of plowing.

**Next Issue** The deadline for the June issue is May 22nd. Submissions can be sent to [newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

## Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24 Pentecost	May 31
Service	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Presider/ Officiant	Rev. Jean Baptiste Rock	Rev. Charles Kamano	Kristina Langlan	Rev. Charles Kamano	Wendy Bellmore
Crucifer	George Coulombe	Kristina Langlan		Kristina Langlan	
Acolyte	Kristina Langlan	George Coulombe		George Coulombe	
Lay Reader	Terry Osmun	Anthony Reckart	Judy Herzman	Brad Conant	Ray Clearwater
Usher	Diane Villano	Kathy & Ken Dougherty	George Coulombe	Barbara Parsons	Kristina Langlan
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Audrey & Anthony	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz	George Coulombe	Astrid Swanson
Asst Counter	Ray Clearwater	Melanie Miller	Judy Herzman	Barbara Coulombe	Ray Clearwater

### Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Rev. Charles L. Kamano
Senior Warden	Diane Villano (& Safe Church)
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Isadora Wilkenfeld
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Pat Walters
Vestry Member	Brad Conant
Vestry Member	Beverly Yurgiewicz
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley
Worship Committee Chair	George Coulombe
Altar Guild Directress	Carol Link-Ude
Communications Chair	Audrey Sundwall
Hospitality Chair	(open)

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: [www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org](http://www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org)

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](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com). If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or [sbshultz@gmail.com](mailto:sbshultz@gmail.com).

# **Christ and The Epiphany Church**

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## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship