

Christ Is All and In All



Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 21

The Holy Eucharist

Christ Church Episcopal

Reading, Pennsylvania

September 19, 2021

Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Service at 10:15 am (with music)

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the black book in the pew racks

Service music (preceded by "S") is located at the FRONT of The (blue) Hymnal 1982 (i.e. "S 127")

Organ Prelude at 10:15 am: (A time for quiet reflection)

Organ Prelude:

"Allegro Maestoso e Vivace" Movement 2 from Sonata 2

Felix Mendelssohn

Processional Hymn 609

(The people stand)

Gardiner

Bishop:

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

People:

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.

Amen.

The Bishop then continues:

People:

Bishop:

People:

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

The Collect

Bishop:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Bishop:

Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Old Testament

(Please be seated):

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22):

A Reading from the Book of Esther:

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, *“What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”* Then Queen Esther answered, *“If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.”* Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, *“Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?”* Esther said, *“A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!”* Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, *“Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.”* And the king said, *“Hang him on that.”* So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

REFRAIN



Our help is in the name of the Lord,



The ma-ker of hea-ven and earth.

1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

REFRAIN

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

REFRAIN

5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

REFRAIN

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

REFRAIN

The Epistle

(Please remain seated):

James 5:13-20

A Reading from The Letter of James:

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Anthem:

Immortal, Invisible

Eric Thiman

The Gospel

All please stand for the Gospel, the Gospel reader first saying:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark 9:38-50

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

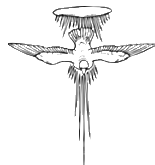
"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, Bishop



The Confirmation

We welcome the friends and families of:

Fernando A. Corona, Joseph A. Corona, Amelia Van Velsor Fanning and William Dean Fanning,
who are here to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation;

*We welcome **Ashleigh Hoelscher, Diane Morris, David Pendergst, Robert Rozzi and Chris Spohn,***
who are here to be Received.

We welcome **David Emes** and **Dale Goodyear,**
Who are here to be Reaffirmed.]

The Bishop says:

The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

<i>Presenter</i>	(Kate Fanning):	I present <u>Fernando A. Corona</u> for Confirmation.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Kimberly Alarcon):	I present <u>Joseph A. Corona</u> for Confirmation.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Marcia Smith):	I present <u>Amelia Van Velsor Fanning</u> for Confirmation.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Mary Arguelles):	I present <u>William Dean Fanning</u> for Confirmation.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Cynthia Pipkin):	I present <u>Ashleigh Hoelscher</u> for Reception.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Matthew Boggs):	I present <u>Diane Morris</u> for Reception.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Terry Rowles):	I present <u>David Pendergast</u> for Reception.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Cathryn Clinton):	I present <u>Robert Rozzi</u> for Reception.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Wayne Fanning)	I present <u>Chris Spohn</u> for Reception.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Dale Goodyear):	I present <u>David Emes</u> for Reaffirmation.
<i>Presenter</i>	(Rick Wolf):	I present <u>Dale Goodyear</u> for Reaffirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates:

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying:

Will you who witness these vows do, all in your power, to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People: We will.

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

(Please stand as able)

Bishop: Do you believe in God, the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Bishop: Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

*People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates

(Please remain standing or kneel, as able)

The Bishop then says to the congregation:

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ:

A Person appointed leads the following petitions:

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A period of silence follows

Then the Bishop says:

Almighty God, we thank you, that by the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit, you have bound us to your service. Renew in these, your servants, the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says:

For Confirmation:

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant, *N.* with your Holy Spirit: empower *him/her* for your service; and sustain *him/her* all the days of *his/her* life.

For Reception:

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you.

For Reaffirmation:

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Peace is then exchanged:

All please stand as able.

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Then the Bishop, Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Offertory Hymn: WLP 819

African American Spiritual

Hymn at the Presentation: 380 (vs. 3) *(Please stand as able)*

Old 100th

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says:

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.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Bishop proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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

Hymn S 127

Sanctus

The people stand or kneel. Then the Bishop continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 for the remembrance of 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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Bishop and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Amen S146

McNeil Robinson

Bishop: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Hymn S148

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread:

The Bishop breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: S164

Agnus Dei

Facing the people, the Bishop says the following Invitation:

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.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

(for those that do not receive the physical elements)

Bishop:

God of infinite mercy, we thank you for our Savior Jesus Christ, who feeds us and gives us eternal life. Though our live stream viewers cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, we thank you that they have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. Grant that we may continue forever in the Risen life of our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Communion Hymns: 309, 343

After Communion, the Bishop says:

Let us pray.

Bishop and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop's Blessing:

Bishop: Our help is in the Name of the Lord:

People: ***The maker of heaven and earth.***

Bishop: Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

People: ***From this time forth for evermore.***

Bishop: The blessing, mercy and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn: 347

Litton

Dismissal

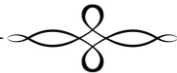
Deacon: Let us go forth into the world,
Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Everyone ***Thanks be to God.***

Organ Postlude: Postlude on "Joyful Joyful"

Mark Hayes

Please join us for a reception honoring the Bishop's visit and in celebration of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation in the Parish Hall, immediately following the service.



Liturgical Ministers

Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, **Bishop**

Celebrant: The Rev. J. Douglas Moyer

Organist: Conrad Smith

Postulant: Michael Molina

Lector: Donna McLay

Ushers: Walt Frankowski, David Thun, Larry Whalen

Altar Guild Team: June Tull & Sophia *Captain(s)*, Kim Alarcon, Andrea Griffith

Deacon: The Rev. Dr. Midge Pendergast

Choirmaster: James K. Wilson

Cantors: James Wilson, Victoria Wilson

Prayers of the People: Sally Wilcox

Altar Candle Memorials for September are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of:

Paul & Alice Swain and **Arthur & Mary Hoare** by Stephen & Charlotte Hoare;

Lois Feick by David & Judy Feick; and

In Thanksgiving for **blessings received** by Susan Frankowski.

Altar Flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of:

Charles, Sydne and **Marshall Long**; and **George & Alice Lacey**

and to Celebrate their 59th Wedding Anniversary (9-29-62)

From Linda & Jack Lacey

Columbarium Flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of:

Patricia K.J. Mathews-Davis and Charles L. Davis
From their *children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren*

Coffee Hour

Sponsored by the Hospitality Ministry to honor the Bishop's visit today.

There are several open Sundays coming up; *please consider signing up (or joining with others)* for this very important ministry of fellowship. Sign-up sheet is posted near the Parish Hall kitchen. Thank you.

Saturday ad sponsors are needed: This week's ad was *unsponsored*. Please consider supporting this ministry (for \$25/ad). Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Parish Hall.



Anyone interested in sponsoring (or sharing) Altar Flowers, Columbarium Flowers, Lectern Flowers, or Altar Candle dedications should please contact Nancy Shelly @ 610-375-7925.

Thank you!

Opportunity House Dinner

will be hosted by the *Altar Guild and the 50+ Club*

October 9, 2021

At this point, we are continuing to drop off the food rather than serving it. However, the shelter's Volunteer Coordinators are very grateful for our unwavering support over the recent months and over the years.

If anyone would like to help us in this valuable service to the community, please contact Vickie Wilson, Meals Coordinator, Charlotte Hoare, or Mary Arguelles (Ministry Chairs)

FALL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS 2021

After a year unlike any other, the Fall Festival of the Arts returns to Reading for its 36th year this September. Join us for three weekends of unforgettable music, stunning visual arts, and incredible theatrical performances.

Robert Pepper, Visual Artist

On Display September 19 - 26 Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading

Visit FallFestivaloftheArts.org for gallery hours

Free Admission

Worship Opportunities

Sunday Services (held in-person at the church):

8:00 am (spoken):

Service begins on pg. 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

9:15 am

Rise and Shine for Young Families, (please note the time change)

10:15 am (with music) and Livestreamed on Facebook. Service begins on pg. 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Weekday Services

Zoom Bible Study on Wednesdays at 8 am

Zoom Centering Prayer sessions on Thursdays at 8:30 A.M.

Morning Prayer on Thursdays at **11:00 am** @ at Red Bridge Park: PLEASE NOTE the time change.
(led by David Emes, Diocesan Licensed Worship Leader)

Spanish remote Holy Eucharist *will not be held until further notice.*

You can still watch the stream without an account. Learn how to do that below:

<https://diobeth.org/how-to-view-facebook-livestreams-without-an-account>

For all the zoom programs, kindly email the church office to ask for an email invite:

officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org for any specific zoom program we offer.

Christ Church Office:

(610) 374-8269

435 Court Street

Reading, PA 19601

Write to us at: **P.O. Box 1094, Reading, PA 19603-1094**

It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:

Text **BELLS** to 42828 to get started. *(Message and data rates may apply.)*

Regular Christ Church Office hours:

Monday: 8:00 am - 12:00 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:00 am - 2:00 PM

Closed Friday

(610) 374-8269

Ext. **221** for the Office Receptionist, **Runette Gabrielle** (Tuesday) or **Kim Wagner** (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)

Ext. **221** for the Bookkeeper/Finance Manager **Robin Wunder** (financemgr@rdgchristchurch.org)

Ext. **222** for the Interim Priest, **Rev. J. Douglas Moyer** (jdmoyer@rdgchristchurch.org)

Ext. **223** for the Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries, **Milah Allison** (milalahallison@gmail.com)

Deacon Midge

mdpend@comcast.net

Kim Wagner (webmaster):

officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org

Cliff Buckwalter (Property Manager)

cabuck57@gmail.com

Victoria Wilson (Bulletins)

vicwil2224@gmail.com

Michele Uhrich (Librarian/Adult Forum Chair)

micheleandbill621@gmail.com

David Emes (Diocesan Licensed Worship Leader)

dadaem930@aol.com

The Christ Church Mission:

Sharing God's Love With All

Please visit us at www.rdgchristchurch.org. The Diocesan and church staff members are listed, as well as a calendar of events. You may use this website to send in prayer requests. You may also request to be added to the list for e-blasts and newsletters.

Centering Prayer (Mindfulness Meditation)

- 1) Choose a sacred word or image as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
- 2) Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word or image.
- 3) When engaged with thoughts, return to the sacred word or image.
- 4) At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

Sacred Ground Discussion Series

The Sacred Ground discussion series is here at Christ Church this fall! So far, we have a core group of participants and leaders planning to meet every other week beginning in September. We would love to add to this group and/or start a second group to meet at the participants' convenience.

Please read below and contact **Cynthia Pipkin at 610 451-3526** or capsew59@comcast.net if interested.

- Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.
- The 10-part series is 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.
- Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.
- Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism.
- It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.
- It holds as a guiding star the vision of beloved community – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.

The dialogue series developer and author is Katrina Browne, producer/director of the documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. Browne is a lifelong Episcopalian who is dedicated to racial justice and healing. Browne engaged a diverse group of advisors and reviewers to guide the process

[Read more at https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/)

