

St. David's Episcopal Church
First Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 10, 2021 – 9:00 am

Worship in the Time of Covid-19

Welcome to the St. David's Worship Service as we observe cautions to protect the health of each of us, especially those who are described as most vulnerable (one of whom is Fr. Don). We believe the best advice of medical experts who are still advising us not to gather for in-person worship, and that our observance of these cautions is an act of love for others.

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

1982 Hymnal 119

As with Gladness

- 1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to Thee.**

- 2. As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger-bed;
there to bend the knee before
him whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek the mercy-seat.**

- 5. In the heavenly country bright,
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.**

Priest Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity

People And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Priest 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 *(spoken by all)*

**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.**

Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Priest In time of anxiety, illness suffering and death, your people turn to you for hope and comfort. O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Thom Boyer

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Led by Todd White

Afferte Domino

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
 worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
 the God of glory thunders; *
 the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

- 4 **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
 the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
 the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
 the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
 the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 **The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
 and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the Lord *
 all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
 the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
 the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Second Reading

Todd White

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

I Come the Great Redeemer Cries

1. "I come," the great Redeemer cries,
"To do thy will, O Lord!"
At Jordan's stream, behold!
He seals the sure prophetic word.

2. "Thus it becomes to fulfill
all righteousness," he said.
Then, faithful to the Lord's commands,
through Jordan's flood was led.

3. Hark, a glad voice! The Father speaks
from heaven's exalted height:
"This is my Son, my well-beloved
in whom I take delight."

5. No more we'll count ourselves our own
but his in bonds of love.
Oh, may such bonds for ever draw
our souls to things above!

Holy Gospel**Mark 1:4-11****Deacon****The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.**

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Children's Sermon

Deacon Hank

**"I come," the great Redeemer cries,
"To do thy will, O Lord!"
At Jordan's stream, behold!
He seals the sure prophetic word.**

Sermon

Father Don

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

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

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Led by Jon Harding

Reader Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Reader Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. We pray especially the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin, our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop William, our Priest Don, our Deacon Hank, Brother John, Pastoral Associate Kate, Deacon Postulant Carol and Postulant Allie. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling especially all those on our parish prayer list. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader We especially pray today in remembrance and thanksgiving for the birthdays of Richard Jakober, Anne Holmes, and Collin Duck and also the wedding anniversary of Henry & Uzoma Owunna. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, especially Carol Toth and all those taken by the coronavirus, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. We pray to the Lord.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

All Amen.

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Offertory Blessing

Priest: Gracious and generous Creator, your people come before you this day with the offering of their whole selves, of all that they are, and all that they have. The gifts they have made to support the ministry and mission of St. David's Church are a symbol of their very lives and their commitment to invest a portion of themselves in your on-going work in the world. May those who make this sacrifice of praise and gratitude be so filled with your own generous spirit, that it pours out of each and every one into the world around them. Hear these prayers and accept our humble gifts. Bless them. Make them abound that all people through our work and sacrifice in your name, may know and feel your abundant blessings. All this we ask of you, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Table

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. While a pandemic continues to cause illness and death around the world, your people come to you filled with faith and hope, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfectly human of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 to the glory of your Name:

**Priest and People: Holy, holy, holy
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.**

Priest: In this time of fear and stress, we turn our hearts to you looking for your help and consolation.

The darkness of winter is gradually yielding to the light, as days get longer, yet we still hear the advice of medical experts who tell us to separate ourselves from each other for our own safety, and out of concern for one another.

Today we celebrate your love for all creation, and we remember the many times when our community of faith has gathered to be fed by your word and sacrament.

We remember the many times in ages past when your people were fed through your loving care.

In this dark season of isolation, we remember the food you provided your People as they journeyed through the wilderness toward the Promised land.

We remember how Jesus fed the multitudes who had come to listen to his preaching in another wilderness place. And above all, we remember the evening when Jesus gathered with a small group of his friends, to link his life to the ancient story of liberation celebrated by the Jewish people in the Passover.

Jesus took the simple food and drink before him and created for all time a means by which those who love him may be joined intimately with him. He created a sacrament for your Church, but in this time of sickness, when our joyful celebrations are curtailed, we cannot gather as we would wish.

So we turn to your words, “Whenever you do this, [whenever you eat and drink,] do it in remembrance of me.”

We have feasted on your word, and now we give thanks that your love reaches to our generation so that having this food before us reminds us of the abundance of your goodness through which we are sustained every day.

With sorrow, we mourn the loss of receiving your blessed Body and Blood.

With gratitude, we take what you have made available to us as a taste of your abundant grace. We thank you, Lord, our God.

All: We thank you, Lord our God.

Priest: As one family we now pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,

**All: 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.**

Priest: Loving God, bless all those spiritually gathered here today, as we remember the friendship and fellowship of our church. Place in our hearts the desire to make a difference to our families, to our community, to our country, and to the world. Give us peace in these times of distraction and uncertainty.

Thank you for food in a world where many know only hunger; For our faith in a world where many know fear; For friends in a world where many know only loneliness. Please bless this food we are about to share, bless those through whose labor we receive it. For all of this we give you thanks.

All: We give you thanks

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Led by Kate O'Connor

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, we desire to offer to you our praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you will come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

All eat and drink from the food before us. After all have tasted of the food (the food may be finished after the conclusion of the Service) and the music has ended.

Communion Music

Shall We Gather at the River

Post Communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.
You have fed us with the spiritual food of your Word
and you have given us the means to partake
of the abundance of this world.
Make us mindful now that you have called us
to be your presence in this world,
and grant us strength and courage to love
and serve you and the people you have set before us
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vestry and Discernment Committee Prayer

All **Lord, we ask you to guide the members of our**
Vestry and Discernment Committee so that they may hear
Your voice leading St. David's Church into the future
to which you are calling us.
Give them wisdom and insight into the qualities of
Leadership needed to best serve our precious church.
Inspire also the person You intend to be our spiritual leader
and pastor. Give us all a sense of happy anticipation
as we await the one we know will be the right one
according to Your plan for us.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Birthday Blessings

Anniversary Blessings

Announcements

Final Blessing

Priest **May the blessing of God the Father, who created all things and set**
them before us, give you joy in his creation.

All **Amen.**

Priest **May the Son of God, Jesus the Christ, who showed us the Way of**
love fill you with the spirit of love for one another.

All **Amen.**

Priest May the Spirit of God who abides with the Church, lead you to take up your call to live as a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

All **Amen.**

Priest And may Almighty God be with you always and bless you, +
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

1982 Hymnal 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1. **Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

2. **He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.**

5. **O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all blessing and all blest;
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand for ever,
his changeless Name of Love**

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Because of the recent rise in the infection rate of Covid-19 in the state of New Jersey, the Bishop has counseled churches of the Diocese to suspend in-person worship. For the time, St. David's will revert to the kind of online Zoom service that we had through the spring and summer. We have every reason to hope that major shut-down across the state will bring a decrease in the infection rate and allow us to resume in-person worship soon. The witness of St. David's is a sign for the Cranbury community beyond just our members that this illness is to be taken seriously, so our sacrifice serves the world around us.

When the church is once again open for worship, registration for the in-person service is primarily online, using the link found on the Events page of the parish website. It will cap attendance at 25 households. We will keep three future services up so that you can pre-register. Right now, it seems that the maximum number of registrants is not being met, so if you have already attended a service and you would want to attend the following week, you may do so.

Moving forward, registration for services will remain open and only close once the maximum capacity limitation of 25 is met.

The altar party (priest, deacon, lay reader, music director) must also register (remember to put your title next to your name.)

Planning Lent

Following a short social time, on **Sunday, January 17** there will be a conversation to begin planning for Ash Wednesday and Lent. Liturgy Committee and all others interested can just stay online after the Sunday Service. Come with ideas and questions.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 31, 2021

The annual meeting will be virtual this year via ZOOM on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 10:30 am. Registration and requirements will be forthcoming. Please submit all reports to the office by Monday, January 11th.

Join us Wednesday Nights ... Through Lent:

“Open and Unafraid” – a study of the Psalms as a guide to life.

You are invited to join our Wednesday Evening book group this winter with Deacon Hank, where we will be reading the second half of W. David O. Taylor’s book *Open and Unafraid*. Our Zoom® conferences will be from 7:30-9:00PM beginning February 3rd and concluding March 24th.

The Psalms are the ancient hymns and guide to prayers that are part of not only the Hebrew Bible, but also our Book of Common Prayer. In our study, the (often!) lively conversation spans beyond the book to our lives today and what to make of our faith in these times. If you would like to join us for these eight weeks, please contact Deacon Hank (by email) for a Zoom® invitation to join the conversation. Please note, this fall participants must purchase their own copy of the book:

Open and Unafraid, The Psalms as a Guide to Life – W. David O. Taylor
(Forward by Eugene Peterson) ISBN – 978-1-4002-1047-3

Deacon Hank
hbristoldcn@gmail.com

The Prayer Station - “Just let God into the situation and hold it there”

Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, on intercessory prayer.

Deacon Hank and Pastoral Care Associate Kate are available to pray with you following the dismissal from the Sunday morning service.

The station is open for 30 minutes.

They each have their own Zoom link on the Events page. Join them by clicking on the link with their name.

They look forward to meeting you in prayer.

Something New in Pastoral Care! Telephone Call Ministry

We want to stay connected as a St. David's community, so several of our parishioners are each taking a page from the roster and will call everyone on that page – including YOU - every month or two.

They'll be making a friendly visit with some conversation, and then ask how you are doing. It's something we can do as "way of love" – a way our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls us to live and be for one another. Don't be surprised when you hear from us!

Pastoral Associate Kate will continue making her calls, but now you'll also hear from another St. David's parishioner as well. It's all good!

You Are Invited to Contemplative Prayer

St. David's and St. Francis Dunellen, are partnered to offer us multiple opportunities for Contemplative Prayer each month.

St. David's meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM – January 4th & 18th

<http://www.stdavidscranbury.com/events.html> You can phone into St. David's Zoom by calling 1-646-876-9923, meeting ID 451 815-3355#, and when prompted for participant ID press #.

St. Francis' group meets every Wednesday at 1 PM

<https://www.stfrancisdunellen.org> You can phone into St. Francis Zoom by calling 1-669-900-6833, meeting ID 595-854-4455 #, when prompted for participant ID press #, for password enter 2475689.

No experience with silent prayer or meditation is needed, just the desire to pray "the simplest form of prayer there is" (Cynthia Bourgeault), and at a time such as this, keeping it simple may be exactly what is needed! We provide an introduction to contemplative prayer at the beginning of each session.

If you have any questions or would like to learn about contemplative prayer before joining us, contact Kate at 609-658-7315 or k_oconnor22@verizon.net

Please remember in your Prayers this week: Judy Evans, Tom Evans, Michael Koretsky, Don Nancoo, Lourdes Sanchez, Nora, Gabriel, Adrian Sun, Cameron Polanco, Tappen Soper, Barbara, Elke Lindemann, Mary Channon Cushing, Ken Robinson, Lynda Hammel, Beau Sawyer, Meridith Stout, Yvonne Tessier, Theresa Wilson, Ed Merkel, Tracy Rozkowski, Alyssa, Debbie, Susan Harroun, Omar Holmes, Kathleen Sinclair, Ron Surtz, Sue Dell, Talan, Marion, Lisa, Lillian, David Muggeo, Jane Muggeo, Lisa Muggeo, Gary Long, Diane Roby, Arthur Roby, Laura, Jeff Reed, Paul Szymanski, Bea, Rachel Krimkowitz, Harry Krimkowitz, Nicole Sitko, Thomas Gregory, Rita Lecorchick, Robin Machnik, Joanne Morse, Roger Hammel, Timothy Doyle, Linda Turato, Adam Krimkowitz, Neal Rouse, Loraine, Kathy, Cliff Shore, Alice Wilberforce, Doug Szalai, Lily Chung, Bill, Piper Sousa, Hilda Delgado, Carl, Kai, Tom Coulter, Joyce, Brian, Nanci B., Stewart Sowter, Kristen Holobowicz, Sarah Nestrock, Ted, Katie Turner, Jennie Herbert, Barbara Ann Stoner, George Grau, Sharon, Barbara M., Leslie Terhune, Diane, Aiden, Keith Franks, Carley Machnik, Gary Kaylor, Steve, Samantha Virgil, Mary Ann White, Evelyn Singer, Pete Micale.

(Names remain on the healing list for four weeks. Please contact the parish office to have names added or to extend those already on the list)

Pray for those in the Armed Forces and others who are serving at home and abroad: Donald Whitlock, James McDermott, Joseph Matson, Gregory Seymour, James Kelly, Sam Crumbaugh, Ken St. Germain, Trevor Stranko, Grace Stranko, Drew Vigliotti, Shawn Porter, Nathan Pane and John Michael Vavala.