

TRINITY BUCKINGHAM CHURCH

*Sharing God's love and serving God's people
with Christ in our hearts and God's work through our hands*

RETURN
TO THE
LORD
YOUR
GOD



March 5, 2024
Ash Wednesday
Noon and 7 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church
PO Box 387, 2631 Durham Road
Buckingham, PA 18912
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Welcome to Trinity Church!

Welcome to this gathering place, friend and stranger, saint and sinner. Come, with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning; all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness. May our generous God and our compassionate Savior and the life-giving Spirit bless you this day.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are new to worship in the Episcopal Church, we hope that you will simply enjoy the movement of the service and focus on the message of the Gospel, and not worry too much about what to do or what not to do. In general, we stand to sing, sit to listen and stand or kneel to pray, but please be comfortable. Some people will cross themselves, bow or kneel at different times—this reflects a personal preference and you are encouraged to follow your own.

If you are seeking a church just for today, thank you for celebrating with us and may God be with you as you travel. If you are searching for a new church home and family, know that you are welcome. We wish to greet you today or on your next visit in whatever manner will suit you best. Please leave a visitor's card with the usher/greeter.

Please help us care for one another by taking your bulletin and any trash with you when you go.

Children are always very welcome at worship services. Please pick up a "Sunday Paper" from the ushers and some crayons. Puzzles and quiet toys are available in a basket in the rear of the church. The nursery is not staffed, but you are welcome to visit it with your child. The audio from the sanctuary is transmitted to the nursery.

Sunday School takes place during the first part of the 10 am service from September to early June.

Leading Worship Today

Celebrant & Preacher: Nancy Dilliplane

Greeter/Usher: Deb Grant

Chalice: Joanne Welker

Lay Reader: Diana Martinez

Intercessor & Psalmist: Bob Kinney

Altar Guild: Meg Perry & Joanne Welker **Acolyte:** Joanne Welker

A/V: Deb Grant

THE WORD OF GOD

The People gather. The service begins with silent reflection, after which the Presider and the People stand.

Salutation

One: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

Many: **God's mercy endures forever.**

One: Let us prepare now to enter the desert.

Many: **We will walk the road that Jesus walked.**

One: Let us celebrate these forty days with renewed intention.

Many: **We will fast and pray with Jesus on the way.**

One: Let us remember the times we turned away.

Many: **We will confess our sin and turn back to him.**

One: Let us face the desert places in our lives.

Many: **We do not face it alone: Jesus has gone there before us and goes with us now.**

Collect

One: God be with you

Many: **And also with you**

One: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission, forgiveness and healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The People are seated for the Lessons

First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103: 1-14

1. Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless God's holy Name.
2. Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and forget not all the gifts of God.
3. O God, you forgive all our sins *
and you heal all our infirmities;
4. You redeem our life from the grave *
and crown us with mercy and loving-kindness;
5. You satisfy us with good things, *
and our youth is renewed like an eagle's.
6. O God, you execute righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
7. You made your ways known to Moses *
and your works to the children of Israel.
8. You are full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9. You will not always accuse us, *
nor will you keep your anger for ever.

10. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.
12. As far as the east is from the west, *
so far have you removed our sins from us.
13. As a parent has compassion for a child, *
so do you have compassion for those who fear you.
14. For you yourself know whereof we are made; *
you remember that we are but dust.

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

The People, as they are able, stand for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

Gospel Reflection:

the Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane

Invitation to a Holy Lent

The People stand as they are able

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those, who because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

The People kneel as they are able. Silence is kept.

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

Jesus, who traveled the desert before us and travels it with us, pray for us now and throughout these forty days. Grant that these ashes may be a sign of our mortality and penitence and also a sign of your presence with us in each season of our lives, that when the final Easter dawns, we may join with you in everlasting joy, and sing your praises forever. **Amen.**

*Those wishing to receive the imposition of ashes are invited to come forward.
Ashes are imposed with the following words:*

One: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Repent, and believe the good news. Turn to God, and remember that you are loved.

When all have received ashes, the following psalm is prayed, all kneeling as they are able.

Psalm 51

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
2. Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
3. For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
5. And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
6. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
7. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
8. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *

wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

9. Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
10. Hide your face from my sins, *
and blot out all my iniquities.
11. Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
12. Cast me not away from your presence, *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
13. Give me the joy of your saving help again, *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
14. I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
15. Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
16. Open my lips, O God, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
17. Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
18. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
19. Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
20. Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

Litany of Penitence

The People kneel as they are able

One: Most holy and merciful Father:

Many: **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

The Presider continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

You are invited to come forward and place the words of your private repentance in the font.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Presider stands and, facing the People, says:

Our merciful God, the Source of our salvation, desires not that we live in sin or guilt but rather that we turn from evil, confess our wrongdoing and accept forgiveness. Therefore, may the One who came to restore life bless you, forgive you all your sins and restore you by the Holy Spirit for the living of new life in Jesus Christ.

In the name of Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we know that we are forgiven. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

At God's table, there is food for all who are hungry. If you are seeking God and a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not baptized, and would like to learn more about what this could mean for you please speak to our rector, Nancy. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available, please ask the server if you desire either. You may sip from the chalice, or dip your bread using careful hands. If you prefer to receive only the bread, simply bypass the chalice and return to your seat. If you prefer not to receive bread or wine at this time, place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing, or remain seated and honor Communion in your heart.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of Thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Joseph and Mary, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let

the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

**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 tresspasses,
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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

The Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

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.

Bow down before the Lord *Silence may be kept*

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go now into the desert places where God calls you to go, and be what God calls you to be. **Thanks be to God.**

Sources: The Book of Common Prayer; *God of Desert Places: An Ash Wednesday Service of Taking On and Letting Go* by Rebeka Maples, Wild Goose Publications.

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