



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia
The Holy Eucharist Rite II

January 21, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.

During the last weeks of Epiphany, the revelation of Christ to the whole world, at Holy Comforter we are using liturgies of the Anglican/Episcopal communion from around the world: as the gospel was sent out, so it returns back to us in new forms. These prayers are from our sisters and brothers in the Iona Community in Scotland, in their Iona Abbey Worship Book. <https://iona.org.uk>

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Adagio from *Concerto del Sigr. Vivaldi, appropriato all' Organo*

Johann Gottfried Walther

THE ENTRANCE

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 408 "Sing praise to God who reigns above"
Sung by all, standing.

Mit Freuden zart

OPENING RESPONSES

Presider With nature in its power and beauty, with rain and wind and sunshine, with the ancient rocks and the budding flower,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider With believers and seekers the whole world wide, with people in every land, and speakers of every language,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider With the angels and saints in heaven, with all who have built community here and with all who have worshipped in this place,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider With Jesus who promised his presence and the Spirit who showers her blessings,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider Here let heaven and earth embrace;

People **here may God's people find home.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS, HYMN 899 [*green hymnal*]
Sung by all.

Carl Haywood

Glo - ry,
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, Glo - ry,
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. —
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. —

Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for — your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of

God. Glo - ry, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name,

— Glo - ry, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name.

You take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are

seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our — prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are — the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of — the Fa - ther. Glo - ry,

Descant

Lord, _____ Lord _____ we praise _____ you, —
 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name,
 _____ Lord, _____ Lord, _____ hal - le - lu - jah.
 — Glo - ry, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your
 Ho - ly name. A - - - men.

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider Eternal God, Maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people, unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

People **you are present among us.**

Presider O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul within all souls, in all we touch, in all we meet,

People **you are present among us.**

Presider As bearers of your image, we come to be reshaped;

People **dependent on your mercy, we ask to be made new.**

PRAYER [*All kneel.*]

Presider For the right roads we avoided traveling, and the kindly words we refused to share; for the false gods who received our worship and the true selves we have starved of love ... God, by your grace,

People **forgive us.**

Presider For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly, and the promises which we never kept; for the careless use of our time and money and the lame excuses we should never have made, God, by your grace,

People **forgive us.**

Silence is kept.

Presider For all we should be and all we can amend, God, in your love,

People **renew us.**

Presider For all you have in store for us and all you may demand of us, God, in your love,

People **prepare us.**

Presider For the life of the world and the love of its people, God, in your love,

People **commit us.**

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Presider Hear and believe these words of Jesus: Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace. Come and follow me.

Silence is kept.

Presider Glory to the Creator who gives us life,

People **Glory to Jesus whose love remakes us,**

Presider Glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey.
People **Glory be to God. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON [*The people are seated.*]

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Listen for God's word coming to us in Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

PSALM 62:6-14 *Nonne Deo?*

David Kelley

The cantor sings the refrain, which is then repeated by all. Thereafter, the cantor sings the verses, and all join on the refrain, as indicated.



We a - wait our bles - sed hope, the ap - pear-ing of the glo - ry of our sav - ior.

- 6 For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
truly, my hope is in him.
- 7 He alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.
- 8 In God is my safety and my honor; *
God is my strong rock and my refuge.
- 9 Put your trust in him always, O people, *
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge. [*Ref.*]
- 10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, *
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.
- 11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath, *
all of them together.
- 12 Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty pride; *
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.
- 13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, *
that power belongs to God.
- 14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, *
for you repay everyone according to his deeds. [*Ref.*]

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

God be in our listening, God in our understanding.

Amen.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 538 "God of mercy, God of grace"

Lucerna Laudoniae

Sung by all, standing. During the singing of the Sequence Hymn, children through second grade may follow the Dove Cross to Children's Chapel.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

We greet the Gospel of Jesus the Christ by singing Alleluia.



Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Amen! Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON The Rev. Jackie Thomson

A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon. The people stand for the Creed.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [*Said by all.*]

We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of compassion, he died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN [*All remain standing.*]

The leader of the Prayers will begin with prayers for the church and the world. In the course of the silence after each bidding, you are invited to add your own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

The Intercessor concludes

And because we are here to meet with Jesus, we join our words to those he taught us, saying

People **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.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. [*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.*]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter's work of sharing God's love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.

AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM: “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy”

Maurice Bevan

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of man’s mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;

And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.
 There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
 There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
 There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
 There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
 If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;
 and our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER

Presider All that we have and all that we are are God's gifts to us. So here we return a token of our wealth asking that it and all we possess be used to God's glory.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE INVITATION

Presider We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood. Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you. Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

THE STORY [*The people are seated.*]

Presider This sacrament began on the night of Jesus' arrest, when he and his disciples gathered round a table.

Reader During their meal, Jesus took bread, and when he had blessed it, he broke it and said, "This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me." Later he took a cup of wine, and when he had blessed it he said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me. I shall not share this with you again until I do so in God's coming kingdom."

Presider So now we do as Jesus did and commanded us to do. We take this bread and wine, the ordinary things of the world which Christ, in his own way, will make special, and as he said a prayer before sharing we do so too.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER [*The people stand.*]

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the God our Maker.

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

The Presider continues with the preface.

SANCTUS, HYMNAL, S 127

Calvin Hampton

Sung by all.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er and might, — hea - ven and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Presider Because you, gracious God, have been faithful to us, we will be faithful to Jesus. He promised to be with those who met in his name:

People **this we believe.**

Presider He promised to hear the prayers of faithful people:

People **this we believe.**

Presider He said that in the communion of bread and wine he would be present to us as we remembered him:

People **this we believe.**

The Presider continues

So, send now your Spirit among us and upon this bread and wine, that we may taste and see your goodness, be embraced by your love, and be engaged in your service. **Amen.**

As Jesus did, so we do. We break this bread. We share this wine. We believe that he who lived, died and rose again for us will meet us here. Graciously nourish us, O Christ, so that we who try to follow you may receive food for the journey and be bound in solidarity with all who walk in your way. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, MASS OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

David Kelley

Sung by all.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Presider says

Take this bread, share this wine. In these, Christ comes to us with love from God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

INVITATION [*The People are seated.*]

As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Comforter. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice as alternatives—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.

COMMUNION MUSIC [*Sung by all.*]

HYMN 757 [*green hymnal*] "Will you come and follow me"

Mary Alexandra

HYMN 661 "They cast their nets in Galilee"

Georgetown

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Presider In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **We who are many are one body because we share one bread, one cup.**

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Give thanks for all God's goodness:

People **God's love shall last for ever.**

The Presider continues

Generous and faithful God, you have fed us at your table. May the nourishment we have received enable us to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here. Whether the future be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough, whether our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or weak, keep our hearts warm and our hands open, our lives ever embracing and ever embraced by your love. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Presider May the everlasting God shield you wherever you go. And the blessing of God be upon you

People **the blessing of the Giver of life.**

Presider The blessing of God be upon you

People **the blessing of the Christ of love.**

Presider The blessing of God be upon you

People **the blessing of the Spirit of peace.**

Presider The blessing of the Trinity be upon you now and evermore.

People **Amen.**

AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 537 "Christ for the world we sing!"

Moscow

Sung by all, standing.

DISMISSAL [*The people respond,*]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: *Allegro from Concerto del Sigr. Vivaldi, appropriato all' Organo*

Johann Gottfried Walther