



The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

February 4, 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: Andante religioso from Sonata IV

Felix Mendelssohn

THE ENTRANCE

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 381 “Thy strong word did cleave the darkness”
Sung by all, standing.

Ton-y-Botel

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.*]

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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

Our hearts and minds are open.

PSALM 147:1-12, 21c *Laudate Dominum*

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.



How pleas - ant it is _____ to hon - or God with praise, hal - le - lu - jah.

- 1 Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names. [Ref.]
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind. [Ref.]
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
Hallelujah! [Ref.]

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

God be in our listening, God in our understanding.

Amen.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 529 "In Christ there is no East or West"

McKee

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 1:29-39

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

When Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Amen! Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON The Rev. Ann Gillespie

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: "Ain'-a That Good News!"

William L. Dawson

I got a crown up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! *Refrain*

I got a harp up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! *Refrain*

I got a robe up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! *Refrain*

I got a Savior in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! *Refrain*

Refrain

I'm a-goin' to lay down this worl',

Goin'-a soulder up-uh my cross,

Goin'-a take it home-a to my Jesus,

Ain'-a that good news, good news!

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 Comfoter. 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.

HEALING PRAYERS

Anyone wishing for healing prayers—whether for yourself or for another or for our hurting world—is invited to come to the prayer station in the back of the nave after receiving communion. You need only say as much as you wish, and anything said will be held in confidence.

COMMUNION MUSIC [*Sung by all.*]

HYMN 773 [*green hymnal*] "Heal me, hands of Jesus"

Sharpe

HYMN 679 "Surely it is God who saves me"

Thomas Merton

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 567 "Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old"

St. Matthew

Sung by all, standing.

DISMISSAL [*The people respond,*]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude and Fugue in E Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach