

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Religious Life Sunday

January 15, 2023

St. George's Church, Glenn Dale Parish
Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. Zoom participants are welcome to leave your video camera on; at certain points during the service participants in the sanctuary will see the gallery view of those taking part in the service via Zoom.

Today we observe Religious Life Sunday in keeping with a Resolution of the 2022 General Convention, which invites Episcopal Churches to recognize that residential monastic and dispersed Christian communities exist, who they are, and how to connect with them. We will also hold a panel discussion after today's service to further these goals.

Prelude: Take My Life and Let it Be

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #550 *Jesus calls o'er the tumult*

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander *1818-1895). Music: *Restoration* from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest - less sea,
as of old, Saint An - drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the vain world's gold - en store;
In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear thy call,



day by day his clear voice sound-eth, say - ing "Chris-tian, fol - low me;"
turned from home and toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
from each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
still he calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
give our hearts to thine o - be-dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Opening Acclamation and Prayer

Celebrant: Christ is our everlasting light.

People: **And God is our glory.**

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.**

All pray together: **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.**

Song of Praise: Gloria - My Heart Sings Out #80 *The Light of Christ*

Words and Music: Donald Fishel (b. 1950) © 1974 Word of God Music admin. T.C.C. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

The light of Christ has come in - to the world. The
The light of Christ has come in - to the world.
light of Christ has come in - to the world. world.
The light of Christ has come come.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Light of Christ'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has lyrics: 'The light of Christ has come in - to the world. The'. The second system has lyrics: 'The light of Christ has come in - to the world.'. The third system has lyrics: 'light of Christ has come in - to the world. world.' and 'The light of Christ has come come.' The music is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (Bb). There are first and second endings marked at the end of the third system.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together the Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The people are seated for the readings.

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40: 1-12

I waited patiently upon the LORD: who stooped to me and heard my cry.

You O God lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay;

you set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to you, our God;

many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

Happy are they who trust in the LORD!

they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!

how great your wonders and your plans for us!

there is none who can be compared with you.

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!

but they are more than I can count.

In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure

Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required,

and so I said, "Behold, I come.

In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: 'I love to do your will, O my God;

your law is deep in my heart."

I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation;

behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O LORD, you know.

Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;

I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;

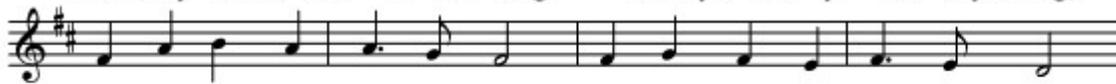
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

Gospel Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #707 *Take my life and let it be*

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal. Music: (1836-1879). *Hollingside*, John Baachus Dykes (1823-1876) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat-ed, Lord, to thee;
Take my voice, and let me sing al-ways, on - ly for my King;



take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.



Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long-er mine.



take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 1:29-42

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

The Sermon: The Rev. Charles Hoffacker

The Creed: *We believe*

Words: Terry Doyle, TSSF paraphrase of the *Apostles Creed*. Music: *Omni die*, from *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, 1631. Harmony, William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895). Wonder, Love and Praise #742. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



We be - lieve God, our Cre - a - tor makes our world and calls it good,
We be - lieve God be - came hu - man when the Word em - braced our flesh.
We be - lieve that Je - sus gave all, dy - ing on a cross for love.
We be - lieve that Christ in glo - ry comes a - gain to be our judge,
We be - lieve God is e - ter - nal, Spir - it, Word and Cre - a - tor;



form - ing heav - ens, earth and crea - tures, each a mir - ror of God's love.
Child of Ma - ry from the Spir - it, Je - sus humb - ly walked on earth.
Then Christ rose to con - quer all death, and as - cend - ed, One with God.
re - con - cil - ing with for - give - ness, bring - ing peace to all on earth.
and the dead are raised to new life, liv - ing in God's end - less love.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray to God who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, saying **Christ the true light, shine on us.**

As the prophet Isaiah sang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come," we pray O God that you empower your Church to sing out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness. We pray especially for Michael our presiding bishop, Mariann our bishop, Connie our rector, and the people of St. George's, as we say:

Christ the true light, shine on us.

Jesus proclaimed, "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven." We pray for members of religious communities and all devoted Christians who became poor for your sake, O God, that they might be made rich through your poverty: Guide and sanctify, we pray, those whom you call to follow you in keeping with their vows in religious communities, that by their prayer and service they may enrich your Church, and by their life and worship may glorify your Name; we say:

Christ the true light, shine on us.

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ child, we pray that you send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth. We pray especially for refugees and for others caught in the violence of war, as we say: **Christ the true light, shine on us.**

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray O God that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness, as we say **Christ the true light, shine on us.**

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world, we pray for all people in need of Christ's blessings and his healing grace, including those who are hungry, those who are cold and lack a safe place to sleep, and those who are out of work. We pray especially for the children and families of Gaywood Elementary School, for the guests of the Warm Nights program, and for those served by the Bowie Food Pantry. We pray for those on our parish prayer list, and for those we name before you now. *The people may add their own petitions.* We pray, saying **Christ the true light, shine on us.**

In the spirit of the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth, we pray O God for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, and we give thanks for all of the blessings of our lives. **Christ the true light, shine on us.**

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats and follow him, we pray O God for those who have answered your call to a new life with you on the other side of death; may they go from strength to strength in your heavenly reign. **Christ the true light, shine on us.**

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers and make us reflections of your light and grace.
Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Now let us confess our sins to God. *Silence is kept.*

All pray together **God of steadfastness and mercy, we confess that we love the works of darkness more than your light. We have sought to satisfy our deepest longings through material things of creation rather than through you, our Creator. We are quick to judge others, yet we fail to see our own failings. We ignore the cries of the poor, and grow weary of working for justice. Forgive and restore us, O God; let your Holy Spirit move in us and inspire us to walk in the light of Christ, this day and always. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) and anyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this week as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

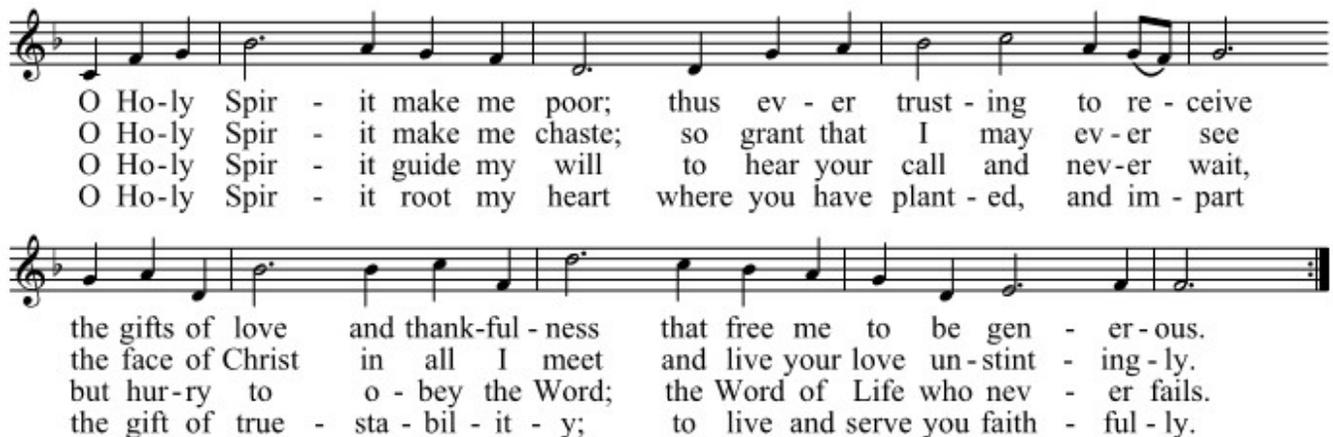
The Offertory

Do good works and share what you have, for these are the sacrifices pleasing to God.

Offertory Hymn: *Hymn for Religious Life*

Hymn for Religious Life

Words: Sr. Diana Doncaster, C.T. Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (b. 1894) Hymnal 1982 #455



O Ho-ly Spir - it make me poor; thus ev - er trust - ing to re - ceive
O Ho-ly Spir - it make me chaste; so grant that I may ev - er see
O Ho-ly Spir - it guide my will to hear your call and nev - er wait,
O Ho-ly Spir - it root my heart where you have plant - ed, and im - part

the gifts of love and thank-ful - ness that free me to be gen - er - ous.
the face of Christ in all I meet and live your love un - stint - ing - ly.
but hur - ry to o - bey the Word; the Word of Life who nev - er fails.
the gift of true - sta - bil - it - y; to live and serve you faith - ful - ly.

Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's. We encourage you to give electronically wherever possible. Text stgeodragon to 72356. Or just use your web browser to go to www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give. You may also donate via Zelle to donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org. Baskets at the doors of the Sanctuary may be used for donations of checks or cash.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: 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.

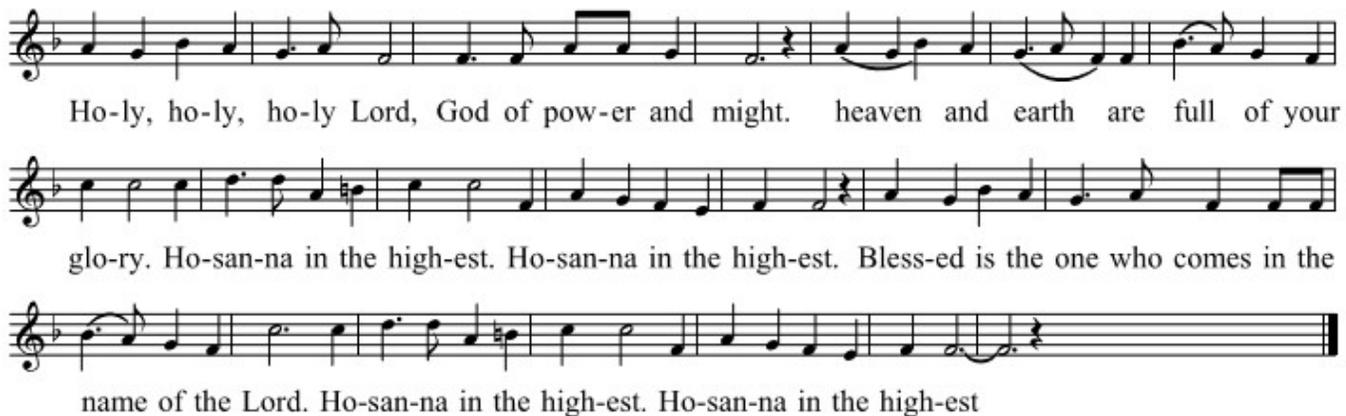
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn in voices of unending praise:

Sanctus: Hymnal 1982 #S 125 *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Setting from *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, O Holy One, for in Jesus the Messiah you have come to us as the Word made flesh. Our hope is built on him in whom you are well pleased, your beloved Son Jesus.

Declaring the nearness of your kingdom, Jesus forgave sinners, cast out demons, raised the dead, and restored those in need of healing. He gathered disciples to continue to declare the good news in word and deed, bringing light to the world in the power of your Holy Spirit.

And so we remember that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

Therefore, according to his command O God,

We remember his death; we proclaim his resurrection; we await his coming in glory.

Made one with Christ and one with each other, we now offer you these gifts, and with them ourselves, a holy and living sacrifice. And now most gracious God, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and that we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your kingdom.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours Holy One of Blessing, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer – Contemporary Version

Celebrant: And now in the Light of Christ, we pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence is kept

Fraction Anthem: Gather #247 May We Be One

Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952) Music: Gary Daigle (b. 1957). © 1993 G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



When we eat this bread and drink this cup we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus.



So as we share this feast may we be come, heal-ing and light and peace. May we be one.

Celebrant: Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, 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.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion

Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

Communion Hymn 1: Wonder, Love and Praise #757 *Will you come and follow me*

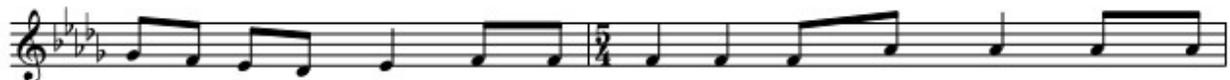
Words: from the Iona Community © 1989 GIA Publications. Music: *Mary Alexandra*, John I Hooker (b. 1944) © 1996 John L. Hooker.
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Will you come and fol - low me if
Will you leave your self be - hind if
Will you let the blind - ed see if
Will you love the "You" you hide if
Christ, your sum - mons ech - oes true when



I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and
I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and
I but call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ner free and
I but call your name? Will you quell the fear in - side and
you but call my name. Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be shown? Will you
nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your
nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do
nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to re -
nev - er be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your



let my name be known? Will you let my life be grown in
life at - tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer prayer in
such as this un - seen? And ad - mit to what I mean in
- shape the world a - round through my sight and touch and sound in
love and foot - steps show, thus I'll move and live and grow in



you and you in me?
you and you in me?
you and you in me?
you and you in me?

you and you in me.

Communion Hymn 2: Gather #492 *Here I Am, Lord*

Text: Isaiah 6. Words and Music: Dan Schutte (b. 1947). © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a fest for them. My hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am Lord. It is I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me,



I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

Post- Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray: **Generous and nourishing God, in word and bread and wine we have celebrated the mysteries of your love: As we go forth into the world, we ask you to assist us with your grace, that we may live as signs of your wonders in the world, loving one another and sharing your light wherever we go, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Announcements

The Blessing

Let us go forth in light to honor our God and share what we know of the risen Christ.
And now may God strengthen you and bless you with peace;
May Christ Jesus bring justice for you and among you;
And may the Holy Spirit alight on you and affirm you as God's beloved, this day and always.
Amen.

Dismissal Hymn: LEVAS #1 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Words: James Weldon Johnson 1871-1938). Music: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954). © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Company.
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Lift ev-'ry voice and sing, 'Till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -
Ston-y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast-'ning rod. Felt in the days when
God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who has brought us

- nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic-ing rise High as the list - 'ning
hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead-y beat, Have not our wear-y
thus far on the way; Thou who has by thy might, Led us in to the

skies, Let it re-sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
feet Come to the place for which our Fa - thers sighed? We have come o - ver a
light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the
way that with tears has been wa - tered; We have come, tread - ing our
pla - ces, our God, where we met thee; Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y
wine of the world, we for - get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy

sun Of our new day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
past, Till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
hand, May we for - ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the Light of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Join us after the 10:00 service this morning for a panel discussion to learn more about Episcopal religious communities.



Religious Life Sunday

Are you seeking to deepen your relationship with God and to center your life on Jesus Christ? Are you longing for companionship along the way? Episcopalians living under vows (monks, nuns, sisters, brothers, friars as well as clergy and lay people in religious orders) provide guidance, community, and resources for the sacred journey. We invite you to celebrate Religious Life Sunday and to learn more about the spiritual support that we offer.

What is “Religious Life Sunday”?

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church approved resolution 2022-B004, “Foundation of Religious Life Sunday,” to be held each year. This Sunday focuses efforts to tell all Episcopalians that residential monastic and dispersed Christian communities exist, who we are, and how to connect with us.

What are the “religious” communities in The Episcopal Church?

Religious communities in The Episcopal Church include monastic communities, whose members live together under a rule of life and under vows such as poverty, chastity, and obedience. “Religious life” also includes dispersed Christian communities such as the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory or the Third Order Society of Saint Francis whose members are from all walks of life, who have jobs, who live in their own homes, some with families, and who live under religious vows.

What can religious life do for me and for my faith journey?

We have developed traditions and practices that assist in developing spiritual growth and discernment. We teach about prayer practices, lead retreats, give spiritual direction, assist in writing and living a rule of life, give presentations about the spiritual journey, and provide spiritual friendship. Many of our monastic communities offer hospitality for short visits or longer retreats. Religiouslifesunday.org includes resources, a video, a list of speakers, and much more.

You may perceive a call to a deeper commitment with one community, as an associate or oblate. Such commitments begin with discernment and preparation, followed by a formal service of commitment. Associates and oblates pray for the members of the community, as we also pray for them, and may offer financial support, commit to a rule of life, and attend retreats. You or someone you know may be experiencing a call to join a community; we welcome the opportunity to discern with you.

How can I connect with an Episcopal religious community?

Residential monastic communities: caroa.net.

Dispersed Christian communities: naecc.net.

More resources: religiouslifesunday.org.



Collect For Religious Orders and Vocations

O Lord Jesus Christ, you became poor for our sake, that we might be made rich through your poverty: Guide and sanctify, we pray, those whom you call to follow you under the vows of their religious communities, that by their prayer and service they may enrich your Church, and by their life and worship may glorify your Name; for you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

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