

Service of Holy Communion
Second Sunday after Epiphany - January 15, 2023

Hymn 616 – Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, stanzas 1-3

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.

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 soul, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountain shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

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Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

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.

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.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Collect for Epiphany 2

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, worshiped, 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.*

First Reading – Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

Second Reading – I Corinthians 1:1-9

Hymn 126 – The people who in darkness walked, stanzas 1-3

The people who in darkness walked have seen a glorious light;
on them broke forth the heavenly dawn who dwelt in death and night.

To hail thy rising, Sun of life, the gathering nations come,
joyous as when the reapers bear their harvest treasures home.

To us the promised child is born, to us the son is given;
him shall the tribes of earth obey, and all the hosts of heaven.

Gospel – John 1:29-42

Sermon

Nicene Creed – page 358

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again In accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Prayers of the People Form IV – page 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Confession and Absolution – page 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

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

The Peace – page 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements and Prepare the Altar

Eucharistic Prayer – page 361

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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 the glory of your Name:

*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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

Post Communion Prayer – BCP page 365

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.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Hymn 397 – Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous god through all our life be near us!
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
eternal, Triune God whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lessons for Epiphany 2 – January 15, 2023

Collect: 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, worshiped, 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.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you people from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant Israel in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength – he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

Psalm 40:1-12

I waited patiently upon the Lord;

he stooped to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay;

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

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to 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
(you have given me ears to hear you);
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.

Second Reading: I 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. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: 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 the 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 Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon preached by The Rev. Charles Rowins at St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, MD, 2nd Sunday of Epiphany, January 15, 2023.

Welcome to “Come and See” Sunday.

The passage from John’s Gospel (**John 1:29-42**) is the ultimate example of Christian outreach. We’re here this morning because at some point in our journey, we came and we saw. Or at least we came and we thought we saw. We saw just enough perhaps to want to return for another look. And, sure enough, that additional look just increased our interest. And before long we were not coming to see; we were inviting others to come and see. We were sharing.

I grew up in Pasadena, California. My folks were members of the First Methodist Church, and I often went to church with them. I didn’t know it at the time, but I was coming and seeing. My parents had come and seen many years before. They liked the experience. It was an important part of their lives, and they wanted to share it with their sons.

By your presence here, as adults, you all have an experience of coming and seeing and coming back for more and I suspect inviting family, friends and neighbors to “come and see” for themselves. It’s how the Good News is spread and initially received. I say “initially” because there is another step in the process.

Later in today’s Gospel reading, the potential disciples ask Jesus “Where are you staying?” They’re really curious. And look at what Jesus says: “Come and see.”

First it was my folks saying “Get ready, we’re going to church. It’s Sunday.” And off we went. And then, later, at a time I can’t pin down, it was perhaps the Holy Spirit to whom I was responding, not my parents. I wasn’t going to church because I had to. I was going to church because I wanted to learn more about this first century carpenter who was getting, not under my skin, but into my head and perhaps my heart.

This development, this faith growth, is what Isaiah talks about in today’s Old Testament lesson (**Isaiah 49:1-7**). God had Isaiah in sight even before Isaiah was born. “While I was in my mother’s womb, he, the Lord, named me. You are my servant, in whom I will be glorified.” And look at the task that the Lord assigned Isaiah: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up

the tribes of Jacob and restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

“Come and see” sounds innocent enough. But what happens when we come and see and get an assignment? “Woe, I just wanted to come and see what church is like. I didn’t know there would be homework.”

Yes, there is homework – it’s voluntary, but important - including perhaps coming back to church, getting to know more fully the experience of others, realizing that the Lord is everywhere, and still very much interested in you and me. It doesn’t matter what has gone before, including negative experiences. Indeed, imbedded in negative experiences just might be insights that if pursued will make a dramatic difference in our lives.

Some of you have been in combat and have spent time in foxholes or their equivalent trying to survive an attack. And lived to talk about it. You might well try to put it out of your mind, but can’t. Indeed sometimes there are insights that wouldn’t have occurred without the experience.

I discovered on-line a Chicago ad agency called Foxhole Creative. From their website, here are the ingredients they bring to each of their clients: mindfulness, accountability, decisiveness, humility, initiative, communication. Sounds like the church or any organization, at its best.

The clients of Foxhole Creatrive, by definition, are struggling with their businesses. They are reaching out for help, hoping that someone will hear and say “Come and see – **we** can help.” Isn’t that what a productive website is all about?

And, isn’t this exactly what John says to his companions in today’s Gospel (**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!’”

“Takes away the sin of the world.” What a motto! If you hear this for the first time, and you feel overwhelmed by the cards life has dealt you – a foxhole, if you will - you’re going to want to hear it again and learn more about this Lamb of God.

And, my friends, here we are. Wanting to learn more about this Lamb of God. And why do we want to learn more? Well, it’s not idle curiosity. It’s more like

today's Psalm (**Psalm 40:2**). "He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay." For whatever reason, we can use some help. We want to "set our feet upon a high cliff where our footing is sure." And so we pray to the Lord – verse 12 of Psalm 40 – "let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever."

St. Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians (**I Corinthians 1:8**), is not just hopeful, but confident. "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."

"Come and see." That's the invitation. And here's the assurance: "You'll never be alone."

That's why you and I are here. We've come before and been intrigued. We've wanted to learn more about this Jesus. About this assurance. And the more we have learned, the more satisfying the experience is.

Not all our questions are answered. Not all roadblocks are removed. Not all our fears are quelled. There's a whole lot more to contend with. We know that. But we also know that we are not alone. The one who is by our side – whether an image of Christ or the real hand of one of Christ's disciples – is our assurance and our joy and our gift to share.

We have come and seen. And, guess what. We like the experience well enough to come back. Maybe there is something after the foxhole. Maybe it is something like Crucifixion and Resurrection. Maybe, just maybe, we're going to be okay. After all, Lord, we're with you. We have come and we have seen and, yes, we want more.

That expression – "we want more" – doesn't apply just to what follows a high school touchdown. It applies right here. The church version is our final hymn today (**Hymn #397 stanza 2**):

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

Amen.

