



The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

June 13, 2021

10:00 AM

The Third Sunday After Pentecost

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The Congregation Gathers

We hope you will find renewed life, health and strength in God in our common worship.

Today we honor all of our Graduates - with special thanks to all faculty, staff and School Board Members who have done so much this challenging year.

*The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God and
in celebration of Nancy Grandfield's birthday, and
in loving memory of the The Rev. Canon Richard Aldin Wagner.*

Following recent guidelines from the Diocese, our clergy and music leaders who have proof of vaccination may remain unmasked during indoor services. The rest of the congregation should continue to wear masks until further notice. We hope this will make it easier for everyone to participate in worship.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

1. O day of God, draw nigh, in beau - ty and in power, come with thy time - less
3. Bring jus - tice to our land, in that all may dwell se - cure, and fine - ly build for

6
judge - ment now come to foun - da - tions pre - sent en - dure.
days to come

Opening Acclamation

Bold text after People or All is said by everyone.

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Presider 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.**

The Gloria

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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 Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Word

The Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalms 92:1-4, 11-14

All

**It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;**

**To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning
and of your faithfulness in the night season;**

**On the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.**

**For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

**The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.**

**Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

**They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;**

**That they may show how upright the Lord is,
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.**

Sequence Hymn

We Walk by Faith

I. We walk by faith, and not by sight; no

5
gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as

10
none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.

Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel.

(Deacon, when present, or Priest)

The Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

Deacon
People

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Deacon
People

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



Our Response to the Word

The Nicene Creed

All

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. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified and 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

- Deacon: As the kingdom of God spreads among us, let us offer prayers for the whole world and for every person in every need.
- Leader: For this holy gathering and for the people of God in every place.
- People: Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader: For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.
- People: Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader: For all that is good and bountiful for the world.
- People: Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader: For all those in danger and need, the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the oppressed, travelers and prisoners. We pray especially for those affected by gun violence, including those in the recent San Jose shootings, and for those on our parish prayer list.
- People: Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader: For the dying and the dead, especially those we hold dear in our hearts.
- People: Lord, have mercy.**
- Leader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We give thanks for those who are graduating and for teachers. We pray with gratitude for all those who supported the work and worship of this community during the pandemic.
- People: Lord, have mercy.**
- Deacon: God who scatters the seed of faith, hear the prayers we offer this day and make every thing new; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please hold these individuals in your heart and prayers:

John B., Muriel McG., Judy B., Stephanie M., Joan W., Felicity, Danielo, Linda, Frank, June, Donna, Vanessa, Curt and Cindy, Marcial, Rebecca, Annie, Peggy, Ron, Claudette, Erma, Nancy G., Riley, Karen, Steve, Stephen, Ashley, Caroline, Barbara T., Kathy, Dave, Dwight, Susie, Marisol, Virginia, Lisa, Tina, Jeff, Tom, Christine, Sarah, Ericka, Pat A., Pat H., Daphne, David, Douglas, Jan, Jack, Marilyn, Maria, Chris, Steven, Barbara, Pat P., Heather O., Meredith, Ruth, Nancy, Claudette, Baby Cruz, Baby Aiko, Karen, Michael, Linda, Leslye, Mike, Greg, Jenny, Star, Olivia, Nanci, Leose, Jim, and for those who have gone before us, especially Nina Brook's father, Rev. Dr. C. Earnest Brooks. We also ask for your prayers for children, teachers and 1st responders.

The Peace

Please share a socially distanced sign of peace with one another by waving, bowing, or nodding.

Presider Remembering that God's peace knows no boundaries, may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

We send special greetings to those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries.

Remaining in your seat, please let us know if you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this week.

Birthdays: Trish B., John N., Claudia N., Dave W., Rebecca R., Ellie K., Luke P., Mason P.

A Special Blessing for our Graduates

Presider "Walk in Love as Christ Loved us and gave himself, an offering and gift to God."

Offertory

To ensure the safety of everyone, there is no passing of an Offertory Plate. Please continue to make your donations online, or by mail. If you would like to make a donation today, we will have an offertory plate available on the Usher's table.

Thank you very much for your support.



The Liturgy of the Table

Presider The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

The Sanctus

***All* Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider Holy and gracious God: 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, 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:

Presider and People **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his life, 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.

The Great Amen. 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.**

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

Presider and 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 Fraction

A period of silence is kept as the Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

Presider and People Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

All **All are welcome at God's Table.**

Ministers (having just sanitized our hands) will hand the bread (wafers for now) into communicant's hands - taking care not to touch those hands (basically dropping the wafer into your outstretched hands). This won't feel quite as intimate as before, but safety is our primary concern. Please keep your mask on.

A minister will hold a tray of small, compostable cups, and you will help yourself to a cup... then move a distance away to consume the bread and drink the wine ...and then, after putting your mask back on, please put the empty cups down on a nearby table. We will later compost those cups. Please return to your pew down the side aisles.

For those of you at home, please share Communion with us if you have the blessed bread and wine – or please pray the Prayer for Spiritual Communion below.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen. *(from the Order of Julian of Norwich)*

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, 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.**

Final Blessing

The Presider blesses the people.

People Amen.

Closing Hymn

God of Mercy, God of Grace v. 1,2

1. God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness of thy
2. Let thy peo - ple praise thee, Lord; be by all that live a -
face. dored. Shine up - on us, Sa - vior, shine, fill thy
Let the na - tions shout and sing glo - ry
Church with light di - vine, and thy sav - ing health ex -
to their Sa - vior, Thee; let all be, be - low, a -
tend bove, un - to earth's re - mot - est end.
one in joy, and light, and love.

Dismissal

The Deacon, when present, or Priest dismisses the people.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Please join us for Coffee Hour outside. Please be careful and safe as we rejoice in one another's company. For those of you at home, please stay on the Zoom broadcast and enjoy Coffee Hour conversation together virtually.

We regret that we cannot offer Nursery care or Faith Formation classes (Godly Play), and the church playground is not yet open.

We look forward to the day when we shall return to a more normal celebration, but let us take great Joy in being together for worship today.

Thank you for understanding the restrictions – they are to keep everyone safe.

Restrooms are available if needed. Please follow the guidelines that are posted. If you have questions, please speak with one of our Usher/Greeters.

As we celebrate our LGBTQIA friends and families during the month of June, Epiphany is also celebrating LGBTQIA Episcopalians.



Louie Crew Clay
Episcopal Activist
1936-2019

Erman Louie Crew Jr. was born in Anniston, Alabama, on Dec. 9, 1936. Having earned a doctorate in English, he taught at preparatory schools and universities in the United States, England, Hong Kong and China throughout his career, most recently at Rutgers University until his retirement in 2002. In 1974, he married Ernest Clay, though the marriage was not legally recognized until 2013. Also in 1974, while teaching in San Francisco, he called Grace Cathedral to ask if they could help him connect with other gay Episcopalians and heard "derisive laughter" in response. Determined to change the church's attitude, in November of that year, he published the first edition of a newsletter called Integrity, a forum for gay and lesbian Episcopalians to connect, organize, express themselves and support each other. "The Christian Gospel is for all persons," he wrote in the first issue. "For too long has our beloved church neglected its historic mission to bring the Gospel to gay people. Instead, we have typically been treated as the lowest of God's creation, too vile even to be mentionable. The hour has come for us gays to recognize that the only gift that our church has to offer us is the all-precious grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The newsletter rapidly grew into a national nonprofit organization dedicated to full inclusion of LGBTQ people in The Episcopal Church, with an official presence at every General Convention since 1977. Though it has experienced organizational turmoil in recent months, Integrity's advocacy efforts are credited with securing the most significant victories for LGBTQ Episcopalians, including official support for their access to the sacraments of holy orders and marriage.

Crew also served six terms in the House of Deputies, representing the Diocese of Newark, and one term on Executive Council. He was a pioneer in using the internet to spread information throughout the church and beyond. "Louie was social media before there was social media," the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, president of the House of Deputies, said at Integrity's 40th anniversary celebration during the 2015 General Convention. Louie also served on numerous boards, committees and task forces, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, General Convention's Committee on Social and Urban Affairs and Standing Commission on Health and Human Affairs, and the Diocese of Newark's Standing Committee. A prolific essayist and poet, Crew documented over 2,600 publications of his work, including the 2015 anthology "Letters From Samaria: The Prose & Poetry of Louie Crew Clay."

Sadly, Louie passed on November 27, 2019, with his husband by his side. On social media, Crew was remembered as "a holy troublemaker," "a great light," "giant of justice" and a "gift to the church."

"Louie changed the face of the church with his gentle spirit and fierce convictions," Jennings wrote on Facebook. "He loved the Episcopal Church too much to let us stay the way we were. Thanks to his resilient witness, we are more just, more faithful and look more like the kingdom of God."

