

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY FEB. 12, 2023



“Hands Across the Divide” - Maurice Harron. A metal sculpture in Londonderry, Northern Ireland commemorating reconciliation and hope for the future.

“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” – Matthew 5:23-24

ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)

LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Praise to the living God!

H 372

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

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

Praise to God, immortal praise

H 288

Verses 1 and 3

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Divine Gardener, you give growth to our seeds and to the towering forest trees; you raise to abundant life that which seems to be dead. Teach us to choose blessing and life rather than death, so that we may walk blamelessly, seeking you through reconciliation with all of your children. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 30, Verses 15-20.

Moses said, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119 verses 1-8, *Beati immaculati*

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, *
who walk in the law of the LORD!

**2 Happy are they who observe his decrees *
and seek him with all their hearts!**

3 Who never do any wrong, *
but always walk in his ways.

**4 You laid down your commandments, *
that we should fully keep them.**

5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep your statutes!

**6 Then I should not be put to shame, *
when I regard all your commandments.**

7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

**8 I will keep your statutes; *
do not utterly forsake me.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians , Chapter 3 ,
verses 1 through 9.**

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and

go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Tom Hughes

Affirmation of Faith (from Daily Prayer for All Seasons)

As children of God, we affirm:

That God, who is Love, created all and called it good,

that God is present with all of creation,
and that in darkness and in light, God is faithful.
Therefore we, too, seek to be faithful.

That Jesus came to show us Love with a human face,
that he taught justice and reconciliation and suffered on our behalf,
and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope.
Therefore, we too seek to be people of justice, reconciliation, and
hope.

That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us,
that this same Spirit offers wisdom and discernment,
and that, when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way.
Therefore we seek to be people filled with God's Spirit:
Discerning, loving, and transforming our world. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

To God who welcomes all in love, let us pray for the good of the church
and the concerns of those in need.

We pray for the health and vitality of the church:

You command us to honor you by loving one another, yet all too often
there is quarreling and jealousy among us. Help us to live your law of
love as we seek to grow into the full stature of Christ. **Loving God, help
us to turn our hearts toward you.**

We pray for the welfare of the world:

You have blessed us with every skill and gift for nurturing the common
good, yet our self-centered ways incline our hearts toward evil. We
pray for our lawmakers, living in hope that they will govern with the
common good in mind. We pray for a speedy end to the war in
Ukraine, and for all who suffer because of war and of gun violence. Until
your reign of peace comes on this earth, protect and strengthen those
who serve in the armed forces of this land, especially those on our
prayer list, and bring them safely home when their work is done.
Strengthen us to work together for the mutual benefit of neighbors near
and far, and for the life and prosperity of your reign on earth. **Loving
God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.**

We pray for the well-being of your creation:

Our choices wreak havoc on the world you have made and put your planet in peril. Guide our patterns of consumption for the flourishing of all creation and for generations yet unborn. **Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.**

We pray for all who suffer and are in need:

You call us to care for one another with compassion and steadfast love, yet we wither in the face of anguish and brokenness. Equip us for the work of reconciliation, that we might offer hope and healing in the power of your name. **Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.**

We pray for all who are sick and are dying:

Fill us with your mercy and kindness that we may care for them with loving hearts as you bring them to the wholeness of your peace. We pray for all on our prayer list, especially Susan Linne von Berg and Jim Heimbach. We pray for all who have died and who are suffering because of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Bless those who working to alleviate the misery and suffering there. **Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.**

God of every land and nation, you have created all people and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you, and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

Offertory

No Greater Love

Ruth E. Schram

Mary Peterman, Soprano; Denise Gregory, Alto

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 1

Enriching our Worship

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God, source
of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

S 125

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into

the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Communion of the People of God

Communion Hymn

Strengthen for service, Lord

H 312

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you,
that your lives may be a light to the world.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

The Father,

The Son,

And the Holy Spirit, be among you,

And remain with you always.

Closing Hymn

I come with joy to meet my Lord

H 304

Resources: Opening Collect Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Prayers of the People: Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 1,
Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church. Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

Happy Birthday – Clarence Kunstmann 02/14, McKenna Long 02/15

-Feb 12, Worship, Zoom, 11AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86999263545?pwd=WHpNa1JrU0J0OGdMV3NMRIhmWUVCZz09>, Meeting ID: 869 9926 3545, Passcode: 889278

Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb 12, fighting hunger together. During the offering, bring your can of soup and card up front, and we'll bless the soup and cards and pass them along to our Village Harvest friends on Weds, February 15th. **Monetary donations to the Village Harvest are also welcome with Village Harvest in the memo line of your check.**

-Feb 13 Monday Morning meditation 6:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980716417?pwd=UHLxNE1JYlQ1TGh6N25oYTBxRURwQT09> Meeting ID: 879 8071 6417 Passcode: 790929

-Bible Study Feb 15, 10am-12pm. Parish House.

Village Harvest is that afternoon 3pm,-5PM. Please email Andrea to volunteer at wakepogue.public@gmail.com, or (540) 847-9002. Pack bags 1-3PM, Deliver food to clients' cars 3-5PM.

Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 wrote, "So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air." The Apostle Paul could have been describing Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is today. Over a period of many years he came to the conclusion that the slaves must be freed. He signed the Executive Order known as the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

COMING UP!

-Sun, Feb 19, 11am – Worship and Congregational meeting

-Tues, Feb 21, 5pm-6:30pm – Shrove Tuesday, Pancake supper

-Wed, Feb 22, 7pm – Ash Wednesday service

- Sat, Feb 25 – Coldest Night of the Week Walk. Meet at Hurkamp Park on Saturday, **February 25th at 4PM to sign in and walk at 5pm.**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535

Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908
The Vestry

Becky Fisher, Andrea Pogue (2023), Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar

Becky Fisher, Senior Warden

Cookie Davis, Junior Warden

Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com

Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring

Prayer List

Larry Saylor, Jim Heimbach, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Mike and Marilyn Newman, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom

Nika Corwin (friend of Marcia Kole), **Dominic Paterino, Nathaniel Schakenberg, Ruby Barnes** (Laura Carey's sister), **Claire Cole Curcio** (friend of Catherine Hicks), **Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Randall Clingenpeel, Mrs. Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's mother), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis** (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo Coleman's son), **Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's brother), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Mary Lawrence Hicks, Rodney C. Johnson** (Hicks' friend), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Greg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V