

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
ROGATION SUNDAY & MOTHER'S DAY  
MORNING PRAYER: RITE II 9:00 AM SERVICE**

## **CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL**



### **Mission Statement**

We are called to be one with God and each other,  
By living the Gospel with love and compassion.

P.O. Box 1778  
9 South Main Street  
Sharon, CT 06069

The Sixth Sunday of Easter-Rogation Sunday

Lay Leader: Mr. William Trowbridge

Morning Prayer: Rite II

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**Prelude** *Like as a Mother, God Comforteth (Her) Children*

**Officiant: Welcome to all who have come to be with us today for worship.**

**Our service begins with our:**

**Opening Sentence:** Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

**OPENING HYMN:** *Good Christians all Rejoice and Sing*                      Hymnal 205

**The Invitatory and Psalter-all stand**

Officiant: Lord open thou our lips

*People: And our mouths shall proclaim thy praise*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;*

*As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.*

**Psalm 66:7-18 people respond at the asterisk\*      Lector: Caroline Herrick**

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
*make the voice of his praise to be heard;*

8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
*and will not allow our feet to slip.*

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
*you have tried us just as silver is tried.*

10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
*you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.*

11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; \*  
*but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.*

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,\*  
*which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in  
trouble.*

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; \*  
*I will give you oxen and goats.*

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
*and I will tell you what he has done for me.*

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
*and his praise was on my tongue.*

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
*the Lord would not have heard me;*

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
*he has attended to the voice of my prayer.*

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
*nor withheld his love from me.*

**First Reading: Acts 17:22-31**

**Lector: Caroline Herrick**

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life

and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not

far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

**The Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

**Lector: *Caroline Herrick***

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

*All rise*

**Hymn:** *O Jesus Crowned with all Renown*

**Hymnal 292**

**The Gospel: John 14:15-21**

**Officiant: William Trowbridge**

**The Gospel of our Lord, according to John**

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you, Lord Christ*

**Homily**

**Officiant: William Trowbridge**

**Music Meditation:** *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless*

**The Apostles' Creed**     *Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

### **The Prayers**      *Kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People*      *And also with you.*

*Officiant* Let us pray.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.*

### *Latin*

Pater noster, qui es in caelis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum.  
Adveniat regnum tuum.  
Fiat voluntas tua,  
sicut in caelo et in terra.  
Panem nostrum quotidianum da  
nobis hodie.  
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra  
Sicut nos dimittimus debitoribus  
nostris.  
Et ne nos inducas in temptationem  
sed libera nos a malo.

**Suffrage B** *people respond at italics*

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. *Govern and uphold them, now and always.*

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. *We praise your name for ever.*

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. *Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.*

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. *For we put our trust in you.*

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. *And we shall never hope in vain.*

**The Collect:** O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Collect for Rogation Sunday:** Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that thy gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who constantly receive good things from thy hand, may always give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Collect for Grace:** Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Christ Church Prayer:**

**Intercessor:** *Cathy Casey*

O God, who has brought us into the Church of thy dear Son, make all in our parish a family of one heart and mind in love towards thee; and grant that our common life and work may help to bring in thy kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving**

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Strengthen and sustain all whose spirits are weak and whose lives are gripped by pain or suffering or distress. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

For those who have asked for our prayers, especially:

*Bill, Donny, Nancy Briggs, Alex Fagan, John Fagan, Doris Higgins,  
Rindy Higgins, Françoise Kelz, Eileen Mulligan, Wendy Grace Rossi,  
Joyce Weegar*

*(and for those we now name either silently or aloud.)*

Living Lord, confused friends left your empty tomb in both fear and great joy. We hold before you the sadness of loss and the joy of our hope in you.

*The Altar Flowers, which adorn the Sanctuary, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Chatfield by Judith Chatfield Schwerin.*

**Officiant:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord*

**Officiant:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*



**Offertory Solo:** *Come Down O Love Divine*

**Presentation of Offering** *-Doxology*

**Hymnal 380**

*Officiant continues*

**A Prayer For Joy in God's Creation:** O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The General Thanksgiving** *Officiant and People together*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness

to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love

In the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;

for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,

that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise not only with our

lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by

walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

**Blessing:** Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. **Amen**

**Closing Hymn:** *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

**Hymnal 291**

**Officiant:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia*

**Officiant:** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

**Postlude:** *My Redeemer Lives*

**Nicole Mullins**

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***A Mother's Day Prayer***

*We thank you, Creator of us all, for our Mothers.*

*We thank you that she gave us life and nurtured us all these years.*

*She gave us faith, helping us to know You  
and to know Jesus and His ways.*

*She taught us how to love and how to sacrifice for others.*

*Bless her with the graces she richly deserves  
and keep her in Your care.*

*Embrace her to let her feel precious in Your eyes today  
and to know that we love her.*

*Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace.*

*Bless her this day with your Love.*

*– Author Unknown*

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*According to the Episcopal Church, the Rogation days originated in Vienne, France, in the fifth century when Bishop Mamertus introduced days of fasting and prayer to ward off a threatened disaster. In England, they were associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar “beat the bounds” of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany. In the United States, they have been associated with rural life and with agriculture and fishing.*

*ECCT Prayer Cycle:* St. Thomas', New Haven; Trinity, New Haven; St. James, New London; Clergy peer groups and the Clergy Family Assistance Program.

**Worship Assistance Today:**

**Soloist:** Donna Castaner

**Lay Leader:** William Trowbridge

**Lector:** Caroline Herrick

**Intercessor:** Cathy Casey

**Usher:** Nick Moore

**Altar:** Judith Schwerin

**Hospitality:** Judith Schwerin

**HOSPITALITY:** Many Sundays are available. Please sign up for June.

*(We get the coffee going, a goody and cleanup is the requirements.)*

**SUNDAY NIGHTS- AA MEETINGS MENS GROUP- 7:30 TO 8:30**

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY-SHARON AA HAPPY HOUR-5:30 TO 6:30**

**CRAZY CRAFTERS - 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAYS at 3:00-4:30 PM.**

*Thank you to a small group of parishioners that showed up last Saturday to help with grounds clean-up. We did tackle The Pet Memorial Garden and it does look much better. We used all our steam there. Stop in to see how good it looks. More work is sure to come!*

**Christ Church Episcopal**

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