

**Christ Episcopal Church
Norwalk, Connecticut
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026**

Prelude: Tender Shepherd Denis Elliott

Opening Hymn # 517 How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place

**Morning Prayer: Rite II
*Pentecost Season***

(BCP 77-102)

Officiant: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.
Psalm 19:14

Confession of Sin

BCP 79

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

**Officiant and People:
(All kneeling, if possible)**

**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.**

Officiant and People: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Opening Versicle
All stand

BCP 80

Officiant: Lord open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God.

Response: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate *Psalms 100*

BCP 82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Lessons

A Reading From Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?"²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

- ¹ [Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
 and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- ² Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
 and forget not all his benefits.
- ³ He forgives all your sins *
 and heals all your infirmities;
- ⁴ He redeems your life from the grave *
 and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- ⁵ He satisfies you with good things, *
 and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ The Lord executes righteousness *
 and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made his ways known to Moses *
 and his works to the children of Israel.]
- ⁸ The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
 slow to anger and of great kindness.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse us, *
 nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
 nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
 so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west, *
 so far has he removed our sins from us.

¹³ As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

A Reading from Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 13 A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine* Read By Half Verse

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

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

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

**The Apostles Creed
Officiant & People Together, Standing**

BCP 96

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Offertory Hymn: Go Down Moses LEVAS Book p. 228

Doxology

**The Prayers of the People Form III
Standing or kneeling**

BCP 387

Officiant: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

Response: *That we all may be one.*

Officiant: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;

Response: *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Officiant: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

Response: *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Officiant: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:

Response: *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Officiant: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

Response: *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Officiant: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

Response: *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest;

Response: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Officiant: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy:

Response: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (silence)

Especially for: Suzanne, Joan, Ron, Blaize, Shannon, Kelly, Albert, Bruce, Heath, Alan, Ruth, Mary, Linda, Tracy, Kyle, Barbara, Craig, Marilyn, Keith, Diane, Sandy, Michael, Faith, Charlie, Trisha, Barbara, Sue, Al, Rose, Kenny, Bob, Nico, Candace, Barbara, Jesse, Llyod, Cookie, Betty, Paul and Lee.

ECCT CYCLE OF PRAYER: With the Episcopal Church of Connecticut, today we pray for:

L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie, Stamford; St. Andrew's, Stamford; St. Francis', Stamford

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER: Together with the Anglican Communion throughout the world, today we pray for:

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Harry Coombs by the Ross Family.

VIGIL LIGHT: The Vigil Light burns this week with prayers for those involved in the ministry of Christian Formation in parishes. For church school & youth group directors, teachers & mentors and for adult education leaders.

Suffrages

Officiant says V, People say R

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray

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

Hymn # 560 Help Us Accept Each Other as Christ Accepted Us (INSERT)

The Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People (Read in Unison)

BCP 101

**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**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP 102

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen

Closing Hymn # 526

Let Saints On Earth Sing

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude: Fanfare J.J. Mouret

WHAT'S NEW AT CCEN?

BOOK BUNCH:

Our September selection is No One Will Miss Her by Kat Rosenfield and we are meeting on September 16.

Our October selection is Interview with the Vampire by Anne Rice. We are planning to meet on October 21.

Please join us for one of our discussions!

ANGEL FOOD PANTRY:

Please consider volunteering your time to help us staff the food pantry more regularly.

We appreciate all donations and helping hands too!

If you want to donate any items, we can use rice, boxes or cans of evaporated milk, canned meats (tuna, chicken, SPAM), canned vegetables or fruits, pasta sauce, pasta, peanut butter, bar soap, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo at this time.

We have been supplying people in need that have contacted us and appreciate all your donations which allows us to help the community. If you know of someone in need, please contact Lisa Helwig in the church office at 203-866-7442 or by email at secretaryccen@gmail.com

THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!

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Vestry

George Helwig Senior Warden, Frank Ross Junior Warden

Debbie Ross Treasurer. Liz Conti Clerk of the Vestry

Kim Harris Vestry Member, Debbie Bloom Vestry Member

Organist: Betty Belcher

What is the mission of the Church?

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. *Book of Common Prayer, Page 855*