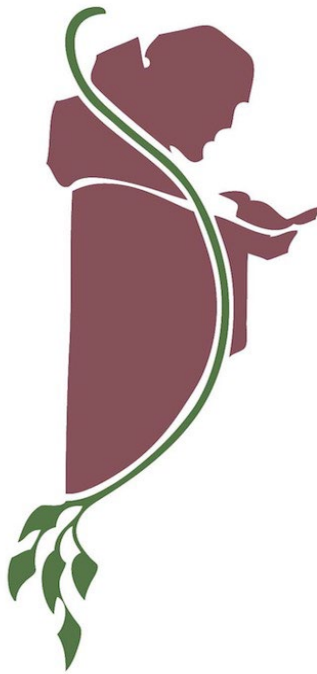


*The First Sunday after the Epiphany  
Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

January 12, 2025



*We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing  
witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.*

## ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



**Welcome** in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

### ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

At 10:00 a.m. our hymns and service music is from the blue **Hymnal** found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

We occasionally use a supplemental hymn books called Wonder, Love & Praise and Come Celebrate which will be given to you with your bulletin. These are also green books and will be listed as **WLP** or CC.

**HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.

*Sing praise to our Creator*

**Hymnal 295**

**ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**BCP 355**

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

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

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.**

**GLORIA:** 8:00 a.m. *spoken*

**BCP 356**

10:00 a.m. *sung*

**Hymnal S-280**

**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.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING:** *Isaiah 43:1-7*

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 29**

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his  
Name; worship the LORD in the  
beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the  
waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful  
voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice  
of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the  
cedar trees; the LORD breaks the  
cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young  
wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames  
of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes  
the wilderness; the LORD shakes the  
wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak  
trees writhe and strips the forests  
bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD  
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the  
flood; the LORD sits enthroned as  
King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his  
people; the LORD shall give his  
people the blessing of peace.

**SECOND READING:** *Acts 8:14-17*

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.

*"I come," the great Redeemer cries*

**Hymnal 116**

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**SERMON:**

The Rev. Patrick Perkins

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

**BCP 292**

*The Celebrant invites the Renewal of Baptismal Vows:*

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism:

*Celebrant:* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People:* **I do.**

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People:* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People:* **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.**

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People:* **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.**

*Celebrant:* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant:* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant:* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant:* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant:* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant:* May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation and the world;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

...We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; for our own parish of St. Francis, our clergy, staff, wardens and vestry; and for all bishops and other ministers;

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation...

...for Joe, our President, and Maura, our Governor.

...for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan, for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa;

...for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, David Lane, Riley Smith, Andy Kimball, James Cimoichowski;

...for those in need of healing; Rich, Eric Warner, Kathleen Lloyd Jones, Jack, Jonathan Seale, Ann Murphy, John Dougherty, Paul Stanovich, Adam Schmidt, Charles Delisle, Lori, Matteo Padilla, Tom, John, Rocco Notaro, Carole, Joanne, Jane Williams, Elizabeth Heath, Bev, Sheri Dumas, Judy Crosby; those suffering from homelessness and all types of addiction and mental illness; the residents and staff of Holden Nursing Home; and those who mourn; and those we name at this time, either silently or aloud;

*Silence*

Hear us Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life;

...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Denys, Alison and Emma Milan; Bernice Miller; Dan and Jan Moran; Judith and Paul Morrissette;

...for The Church of the Province of West Africa; for the parish of Grace Episcopal, Amherst; for the mission of Interfaith Hospitality Network;

...for this community of St. Francis, for ourselves and our ministries; for the ministry of unCommon Ground; for the mission of Renewal Works;

Please offer your thanksgivings at this time, either silently or aloud;

*Silence*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom;

*Silence*

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

***Who put their trust in you.***

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

**BCP 360**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN: 10:00 a.m.      *Descend, O Spirit, purging flame*

Hymnal 297

### OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY

8:00 a.m.    *All things come of thee, O Lord. **And of Thine own have we given thee.***

10:00 a.m.

Tune: Hymnal 380

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;***

***Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

*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 God 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.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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:

### **SANCTUS**

**8:00 a.m. (spoken)**

**10:00 a.m. (sung)**

Hymnal S-130

***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.**

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

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 364**

**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.**

**FRACTION ANTHEM:**

8:00 a.m. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

10:00 a.m. Agnus Dei **Hymnal S-164**

**COMMUNION HYMN:** 10:00 a.m. *The sinless one to Jordan came* **Hymnal 120**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** **BCP 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**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** 10:00 a.m. *Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove* **Hymnal 512**

**THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:**

Altar Guild: Dave Lucas, Mike Reno, Carolyn Schmidt

Nursing Home: Bev Giarusso

8:00 a.m.

Reader/LEM: Rich Farrell

10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Steven and Mary Cook

Reader: Susan Dresley

LEMs: Mary Cook and Tina Chen

Coffee Hour: Lisa Nicholas and Joel Wesson

# St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness  
to  
Christ's Love

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Music Minister: Elizabeth Keusch  
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