



A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 17, 2018 – 10:00am
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Spartanburg, SC

The Voluntary

Rhosymedre
Margaret Hopper, organist

Ralph Vaughan Williams

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people stand, if able

The Processional "The Church's one foundation"

Blue Hymnal (BH) 525

The Opening Acclamation

Red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

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 "Glory to God"

BH 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.**

The Collect of the Day *Proper 6*

BCP 230

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.**

Be seated

First Reading *1 Samuel 15:34-16:13*

Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 20 *Exaudiat te Dominus*

BCP 608

1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, * the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;

2 Send you help from his holy place * and strengthen you out of Zion;

3 Remember all your offerings * and accept your burnt sacrifice;

4 Grant you your heart's desire * and prosper all your plans.

5 We will shout for joy at your victory and triumph in the Name of our God; * may the LORD grant all your requests.

6 Now I know that the LORD gives victory to his anointed; * he will answer him out of his holy heaven, with the victorious strength of his right hand.

7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, * but we will call upon the Name of the LORD our God.

8 They collapse and fall down, * but we will arise and stand upright.

9 O LORD, give victory to the king * and answer us when we call.

Second Reading *2 Corinthians 5:6-17*

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn "We know that Christ is raised and dies no more"

BH 296

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel *Mark 4:26-34*

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.

We remember, especially, and SAY TOGETHER: **Shelby, John, Roberta, Peggy, Helen, George, Katie, Betty, Lessie, Jane, The Johnson Family, Shirley, The Mosley Family, Belinda, Noah, Mary Ann, Roy, Dan, Beth, The Rochester Family, Robb, Darryl, The Taylor Family, The Trimble Family.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

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

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Andrew, our Bishop; Jim, our vicar; Fergie, our deacon; Pat, our convocational deacon; Lathrop, our postulant for Holy Orders; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Church of the Province of Myanmar. In the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, we pray for St. Alban's, Lexington; St. Christopher's, Spartanburg.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We pray, especially, for the students and staff of Drayton Mills Elementary School.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

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

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 360

Deacon or Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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.**

All stand, if able

The Peace

BCP p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Birthday & Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory “Then shall the righteous shine forth” (from ELIJAH) Felix Mendelssohn
Keith Dover, tenor

Then, then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heav'nly Father's realm.

Joy on their head shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away for ever.

The Offertory Response “We give thee but thine own John Yarrington

We give Thee but Thine own, what e'er the gift may be, that
all we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

We present these Eucharistic linens to be set apart for the service of Christ's holy Church.

Celebrant All things come from you, O Lord;
People **And from your own gifts do we give to you.**
Celebrant Prosper the work of our hands;
People **Prosper our handiwork.**
Celebrant Show your servants your works;
People **And your splendor to their children.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart these Eucharistic linens to your praise and glory, and in memory of Suzanne Johnson; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant Suzanne; and we pray that, having opened to her the gates of larger life, you will receive her more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, she may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP p. 369

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 him thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus "Holy, holy, holy"

BH S-129

**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.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Fraction Anthem (Said)

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Hymns at Communion

"Almighty God, your word is cast"

BH 589

"Father, we thank thee who hast planted"

BH 302

If scheduled this Sunday:

The Prayer for Sending Forth Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant N., we send you out to share Communion today with N.

People **May you carry the prayers of all of us, as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.**

Celebrant We send you forth bearing these holy gifts of our Lord's Body and Blood, that those to whom you go may experience, with us, the majesty and mystery of His presence through the sharing of this Bread and this Cup.

People **May the one Bread and the one Cup call us into the binding awareness of our unity in and through our Lord. Nothing, whether it be distance, illness, or age can separate us from the knowledge of God's love. Amen.**

The people stand or kneel, as able

The Prayer after Communion

BCP p. 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

All stand, if able

The Blessing

Closing Processional Hymn "Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth"

BH 598

The Dismissal

The Deacon or Celebrant proclaims a dismissal into the world.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

God Is Working His Purpose Out

Martin Fallas Shaw

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY POTLUCK & POPCORN

Wednesday, June 20th @ 6:30pm. Bring your favorite dishes to share with friends and family in the Parish Hall. St. Christopher's will provide drinks. We'll watch the movie "Peter Rabbit". ALL AGES are welcome and invited. Bring chairs or blankets, and friends and neighbors, too!

ALTAR FLOWERS – RESERVE A SUNDAY

We have several open dates that are available for altar flower memorials: June 24th; July 22nd & 29th; August 5th & 26th; September 23rd & 30th; October 7th; November 4th, 11th & 18th; and December 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th.

The cost is \$35 and can be paid in the church office. Please call 585-2858 or email parish administrator Anita Bruhnke at office@stchrisonline.org for further details.

NEW CHURCH ROOF

Work has started on the replacement of the church roof and may extend for a period of two weeks or more depending on weather conditions. During the replacement of the roof the contractor will make reasonable efforts to keep the areas around the church as clear of debris as possible; however, until the project is completed there will be some debris on site, including nails. Once the installation of the roof is completed the contractor will conduct a thorough sweep to remove debris and nails. Please exercise caution around the church until the project is completed.

SUMMER SINGERS NEEDED! If you haven't been channeling your inner singer and want a chance to let it out, here's your chance! The Summer Singers gather at 9:15 am to put together an easy offertory anthem and go over the service music for the day...no mid-week rehearsal! Just let Anne know the week before you plan to sing so she can have a folder and vestment for you. Sing once, sing all summer...it's ALL good! adenbow@stchrisonline.org

TAKE IT TO THE MAT IN PRAYER - Every Monday Evening @ 6:30pm

Please join us in the Parish Hall for Gentle Yoga & Prayer. Bring a small blanket or beach towel to class. Yoga mats are provided if needed. Suggested donation: \$5

CONGRATULATIONS to our happy couple, Anna and Megan Lenaghan!

FAMILY AND FRIENDS PRAYER LIST We are going to begin updating the Family and Friends Prayer List every 3 months starting in July. If you have someone on the list that you would like to stay on the list, please call or email Anita Bruhnke in the office and we will add them back on. We feel it is important to keep this list as up-to-date as possible and know that it's an easy thing to forget to inform the office to take someone off of the list. A reminder will be added to the bulletin a few weeks before updates to give you time to notify the office. Thank you so much for your help!

FOOD AND MAGAZINES

Thank you for continuing to bring food for our food pantry and magazines that are distributed to patients at the hospital. These are collected each Sunday in baskets in the Narthex.

FUTURE EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE!

Cleaning the Farmer's Market - July 21st, August 18th, September 15th, October 20th

MasterWorks Festival at Converse College – Concerts are free and open to the public. Concert dates: Saturday, June 23rd @ 7:30pm; Saturday, June 30th @ 7:30pm; Friday, July 6th @ 6:30 pm; and Saturday, July 14th @ 7:30 pm. For more information visit www.masterworksfestival.org/events.

Saturdays this summer – Hub City Empty Bowls

Have you ever made a bowl? Consider the cause. Come and make a bowl this summer on the dates listed below. Then in September, make plans to attend Soup Day where you can buy a handmade bowl, soup, bread, and a drink. All proceeds from that day go to help TOTAL Ministries buy the food they donate to those in need.

July 7th make a bowl @ West Main Co-Op – 1pm-4pm

July 14th make a bowl @ Sptbg Art Museum (Chapman CC) 10am-12pm, 1pm-3pm

Sept 29th Soup Day @ Indigo Hall

Wednesday, August 1st 6-8pm @ St. Matthew's

Free Children's Physicals for Back to School. No appointment required. Insured and uninsured are welcome. This is sponsored by St. Matthew's and VCOM Medical School. Any questions, please call Don Davis at (864)576-0434

Saturday October 20th @ St. Christopher's

Fall 'Clean-Up' Day - Help clean and straighten both the outside and inside of our buildings and grounds. Many hands make light work!

Friday, November 2nd @ Trinity Cathedral, Columbia

2018 Diocesan Convention Leadership Day with keynote speaker, Dr. James B. McClintock, author of 'A Naturalist Goes Fishing and Lost Antarctica – Adventures in a Disappearing Land'. Registration begins August 1st.

The Altar Flowers for June 17th are given to the glory of God.

This Sunday's Ministers

Celebrant & Homilist: The Rev'd Jim Trimble

Deacon: The Rev'd Deacon Fergie Horvath

Acolyte: Vickie Witteveen

Chalice Bearers: Lex Hray, Jennifer Evans

Lector: Lex Hray

Verger: Lex Hray

Ushers: Grant Cobb, Brad Harley

Altar Guild: Wanda Larrier, Cindy Hray

Flower Guild: Bliss Harley

Greeter: Doris Beasley

Tellers: Bobbye Faucette, Agnes Hamilton

Coffee Setup: Cassandra Gray

Sound Tech: Brad Harley

Sunday 6/17 **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Father's Day)**
9:30am Summer Singers rehearsal in Sanctuary
9:45am Nursery Ministry available
10:00am Holy Eucharist
11:00am Fellowship in the Connector

Monday 6/18 *[Bernard Mizeki, Catechist and Martyr in Rhodesia, 1896]*
6:30pm Yoga/Prayer in Parish Hall
7:00pm SA Anonymous Mtg in the Connector

Tuesday 6/19
6:30pm Basketball League in the Gym

Wednesday 6/20
6:30pm Family Potluck & Popcorn: "Peter Rabbit" in the Parish Hall

Thursday 6/21
5:45pm NA Meeting in the Connector
6:30pm Basketball League in the Gym

Sunday 6/24 **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:15am Summer Singers rehearsal in Sanctuary
9:45am Nursery Ministry available
10:00am Holy Eucharist
11:00am Fellowship in the Connector

Birthdays

Tom Boyce, 6/10	Patrice Neely, 6/27	Mary Anderson, 7/5
Anne Denbow, 6/11	Agnes Hamilton, 7/2	Bettie Bady, 7/7
Faith Lee, 6/12	Ruth Anne Hickerson, 7/2	Chuck Bobo, 7/8
Shelby Boyce, 6/15	Shirley Lippert, 7/2	Mike Lee, 7/12
David Ragsdale, 6/15	Cindy Hray, 7/4	
Elisabeth Cobb, 6/26	Allie Neely, 7/4	

Anniversaries

Brooks & Martha Harris, 6/21	Alex & Mary Levens, 7/1
Kris & Patrice Neely, 6/29	Richard & Margaret Hopper, 7/8
Joe & Pat Denbow, 6/30 (70 th !)	

Expectant Parents

Jack and Alanna Bruhnke

Pastoral Care Contact

June – Doris Beasley 585-1326

Parish Prayer List

Shelby Boyce
John Burchfield
Roberta Gentry
Peggy Graham
Helen Gumbert
George Hairston
Katie Harris
Betty Holland

Lessie Irby
Jane Johnson
The Johnson Family
Shirley Lippert
The Mosley Family
Belinda Oxner
Noah Oxner
Mary Ann Palmer

Roy Parker
Dan Price
Beth Richardson
The Rochester Family
Robb Sartor
Darryl Stephens
The Taylor Family
The Trimble Family

Friends and Family Prayer List

Larry Armstrong
Jane Black, friend of Donna and Max Fritz
John Bruhnke
Buck Buckland, brother of Penny Hucks
Jim Burchfield, John Burchfield's brother
Andy Byars, friend of Cindy & Lex Hray
Cailynn Campos
Elizabeth Coggins, friend of David Ragsdale
Margaret Cook, Bliss Harley's aunt
Laurie Copley, former member of St. Christopher's
Karen Yuleimy Gallego Diaz, friend of Gary Horvath
Al Dickenson, family friend of Brad Harley
Whitney Dodd, niece of David Ragsdale
David Ferguson, brother of Fergie Horvath
Josie Flore, friend of Belinda Oxner
Teresa Good, family friend of the Harleys
Charles Glover, friend of Brad & Bliss Harley
Mary Gray, mother-in-law of Cassandra Gray
Donna Gurganus, friend of Donna & Max Fritz
Eddie Hall, friend of St. Christopher's
Wanda Hicks, sister of Philip Tuck
Joan Horvath, Gary Horvath's mother
Betty Hray, Lex Hray's mother
Heather Hucks
Barbara Hughes, Beth Richardson's sister-in-law
Taft Hunt, friend of Donna & Max Fritz
Manda Jackson, friend of Roberta Gentry

James Jennings, friend of Christine Evans
Ava Johnson
Briana Jordan, friend of Agnes Hamilton
Robin & Bob Margeson, friends of St. Christopher's
Ben Marshall, grandson of Doreen Marshall
Tommy Martin & family, friends of Bliss Harley
Tyler McGraw, family of Bliss Harley
Jamie McMillan, nephew of Grant & Elisabeth Cobb
Kirk Neely, Kris Neely's father
Diana Nieto, mother of Belinda Oxner
Kevin O'Connell, friend of John Burchfield
Brian Parker, friend of Mary & Al Levens
Family & friends of Chely Patterson, colleague of Karen Barnes
Gene & the Peterson family, lifelong friends of Kyran Dowling
Mike Petty, friend of Bill & Beth Richardson
Deborah Price, Dan Price's wife
Emory J. Price, friend of Jennifer Evans
Johnny Price, friend of Leslie Horvath
Katie Rigby & family, family of Bliss Harley
Lillian Rochester, mother of Bruce
Terri Hodge Rhodes, family friend of the Harleys
June Smith, sister-in-law of Mary Halphen
Robin & Daniel Smith, friends of Lex & Cindy Hray
Allene Taylor, friend of Peggy Wilson
Jim Whitfield, David Ragsdale's uncle
Tracy & Stephanie, daughters of Bruce & Vickie Witteveen

REFLECTION

The third Sunday of June, this country celebrates Father's Day, an official national holiday only since 1972. But stories of local celebrations stretch back to 1908 in West Virginia, and 1910 in Washington state – both at the behest of women talking to their church pastors.

While the Church honors, through Scripture and tradition, God as Father, we also honor and celebrate Saint Joseph, Jesus' adopted father here on earth. This narrative is from the publication, *"Holy Women, Holy Men."*

"In the face of circumstances that distressed even a man of such tenderness and obedience to God as Joseph, he accepted the vocation of protecting Mary and being a father to Jesus. He is honored in Christian tradition for the nurturing care and protection he provided for the infant Jesus and his mother in taking them to Egypt to escape Herod's slaughter of the innocents, and in rearing him as a faithful Jew at Nazareth.

The Gospel according to Matthew pictures Joseph as a man of deep devotion, open to mystical experiences, and as a man of compassion, who accepted his God-given responsibility with gentleness and humility. Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David, and a carpenter by trade. As Joseph the Carpenter, he is considered the patron saint of the working man, one who not only worked with his hands, but taught his trade to Jesus.

The little that is told of him is a testimony to the trust in God which values simple everyday duties, and gives an example of a loving husband and father."

O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. – Book of Common Prayer, p. 239.

~~ Fr. Jim+

NOTES

