



July 4, 2021
6th Sunday After Pentecost
Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two

The Right Rev. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of
Texas

Fr. Steve Karcher, Rector
Jayne Doxsey, Lay Leader

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2800 Trimmier Rd
Killeen, TX 76542
254-634-7474

st.chris.killeen@gmail.com

www.stchriskilleen.com

www.facebook.com/stchriskilleen



For some odd reason, long ago someone decided to call Pentecost “ordinary”. A year ago, nothing was “ordinary”. And things still aren’t. How I long for “ordinary”! Let’s take this opportunity to prayerfully reflect on where we have been, and where we are called to go, as we strive to live as the “extraordinary” Christians we are called to be.

On this 4th of July, we celebrate our independence here in the United States of America. In 1785, the Church's General Convention directed that a special service be drawn up to commemorate and bless the "fourth of July, for ever." The Proposed Book of 1786 contained "A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving ... for the... Blessings of Religious and Civil Liberty" to be used on the Fourth, although many of the clergy had been Loyalists, and stood against the American Revolution. Due to opposition, the service was withdrawn from the 1789 BCP, but prayers were published in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Our 1979 BCP (p. 17), lists Independence Day as one of the "Major Feasts," and provides several optional collects, as well as Eucharistic propers.

See: <https://episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/independence-day>

You have made the nation great, O Lord, you have made it great. Glory is yours. You have made wide the limits of the land. *Isaiah 26:15*

By righteousness, a nation is lifted up. *Proverbs 14:34*

The Officiant says,

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP 80-81

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: *Alleluia.* The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People: **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

All saying together:

Venite *Psalm 95: 1-7*

BCP 82

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

And a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

And the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

And his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

And kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

And we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Lessons

The Collect

BCP 230

Officiant: O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Old Testament

Reader: A Reading from Ezekiel 2:1-5

The Lord said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

BCP 780

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

The Second Reading

The Epistle

Reader: A Reading from the 2nd letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Gospel Processional “*O God, Our Help In Ages Past*” (vs1-3) **Hymnal 680**

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel

Mark 6:1-13

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospel Recessional “O God, Our Help In Ages Past” (vs 4-6) **Hymnal 680**

Reflections

Announcements

The Peace *All stand.*

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Greet one another from one’s own pew by waving, peace sign, etc.)

Offertory Sentence

BCP 376

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

Offertory Hymn "O Beautiful For Spacious Skies" (vs 1-3)

Hymnal 719

Offertory Anthem:

**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 Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

The Officiant invites the People to say together,

**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

BCP 97-98

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

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

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant and People together

**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.***

Suffrage A

BCP 98

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.***

The Officiant says the following:

BCP 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Prayer Hymn 1

“Just As I Am” (vs 1-3)

Hymnal 693

Prayers of the People *Form IV (modified)*

BCP 388

The Leader and People pray, responsively

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

A Reader says the following prayers:

Prayer for our Armed Forces

BCP 823

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the women and men of our armed forces, and their families. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen and encourage them in their trials, perils and temptations; grant them awareness of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Social Justice

BCP 823

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for Independence Day

BCP 242

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer Hymn 2

“Just As I Am” (vs 4-6)

Hymnal 693

Officiant: Let us pray *together*,

BCP 100

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101

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.*

Officiant and People, all together:

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.*

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

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

Officiant:

BCP 339

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us, and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn *“My Country ‘Tis Of Thee” (vs 1-4)*

Hymnal 717

“God Bless America”

See Insert

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Postlude *“You’re A Grand Old Flag”*

Organ