

**All Saints’ Episcopal Church**

**February 12, 2017, 10:15 a.m.
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**

**201 Scarborough Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
(914) 941-6955, *[www.AllSaintsBriarcliff.org](http://www.allsaintsbriarcliff.org)***

**Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church.
Christ loves you.
We’re glad you’re here.**

**Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.** We use two hymnals: *The Hymnal 1982*, a blue book, and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, a black book with a red spine. Copies of both hymnals can be found in your pew. The page numbers on the right refer to the Book of Common Prayer, the worship guide of The Episcopal Church. Copies of the Book of Common Prayer, the red book with a gold cross, can be found in your pew. Please observe silence in the sanctuary prior to the start of the service, in order to provide worshippers the opportunity to engage in private prayer and contemplation. We pray that the peace of Christ might fill your heart this day and always.

**Receiving Communion:**  All are welcome at Christ’s table. We welcome baptized Christians of any tradition, children and adults, to receive communion.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing from the Priest at the communion rail, indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest as the Priest approaches.

**Receiving a Blessing:** If you have not yet been baptized, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross both hands against your chest. We would be honored to help you take this next step in your relationship with Christ. Please contact our church by phone (914) 941-6955 or by email: allsaintsbriarcliff@gmail.com
**To add a name to our prayer list**: please contact Mother Yejide, Deacon Ann, or Sara Silberger, our parish administrator. Details of prayer requests will be kept confidential among the members of the pastoral care team. We welcome updates about those for whom we pray. (The Rev. Yejide Peters: ypeters@allsaintsbriarcliff.org

The Rev. Deacon Ann Douglas: adouglas@allsaintsbriarcliff.org

Sara Silberger, Parish Administrator: ssilberger@allsaintsbriarcliff.org

Parish Office: (914) 941-6955)

On the Cover: *Christ as Judge*, Icon

**THE WORD OF GOD**

 **Hymn: Hymnal 657** *Love divine all loves excelling*

*Priest:* Blessed the Lord who forgives all our sins.

***People:* His mercy endures forever.**

***Gloria***

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**The Collect of the Day**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest:* O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***People:* Amen.**

**The First Lesson** Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said, “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 119:1-8**

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, \*

who walk in the law of the Lord!

2 Happy are they who observe his decrees \*

and seek him with all their hearts!

3 Who never do any wrong, \*

but always walk in his ways.

4 You laid down your commandments, \*

that we should fully keep them.

5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct \*

that I might keep your statutes!

6 Then I should not be put to shame, \*

when I regard all your commandments.

7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \*

when I have learned your righteous judgments.

8 I will keep your statutes; \*

do not utterly forsake me.

**The Second Lesson** 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

*All stand to sing* **Hymnal: Hymn 685** *Rock of ages*

**The Gospel** Matthew 5:21-37

*Priest:*  The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

*After the Gospel*

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.
***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

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**The Sermon** The Rev. Yejide S. Peters

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People: Form III**
*Intercessor:* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

***People:* That we all may be one.**

*Intercessor*: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you, especially our sister congregation at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, the people of All Saints’, and the young adults of this congregation, Emily, Emma, Meredith, Tess, Heather, Anne, Natalie, Clara, Becca, Rachel, Drew, Charlie, Charlotte, James, Emily, Andrew, Richard, Andrew, Caroline, Madeline, Bobby, Ryan, Brandon, Will, Ricky, Claire, Sam, Dani, Michael, Emily, Ian, Jack, Sean, Chris, MacKenzie, Erynn, and Timothy;

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

*Intercessor:* We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our presiding bishop, Andrew, Allen, and Mary our bishops, Yejide our rector, Ann our deacon, and all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

*Intercessor:* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Donald our president, members of Congress, Andrew our governor, Robert our County Executive and Lori our mayor;

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

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

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

*Intercessor:* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble especially Ellie, Reka, Jessica, George, Michelle, Rick, Natalie, Midge, James, Alison, Baby Girl Mone, Cate, Fran, Cathy, Heather, Alan, Caleb, Janet, Richard, Sarah, Anthony, Carter, Auralie, Bayard, Steve, Jeffrey, Maggie, Michael, and the Gunn family;

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

*Intercessor:* Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Joann Gunn;

***People:* Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Intercessor:* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

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

*Intercessor:* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*Priest:* For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

***People:* Amen.**

**Confession of Sin**

*Priest:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All: 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.**

*Priest grants absolution.*

*All stand for*

**The Peace**

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

*People:* **And also with you.***The Priest and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory Anthem** *O Come Ye Servants of the Lord (*Tye*)*

*During the anthem, the ushers pass alms basins to take up a financial offering from congregation.*

**Doxology: Hymnal Hymn 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.**

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A** p. 361
The People remain standing. The Priest faces them and says:

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Priest:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-

where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of

heaven and earth… 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* Hymnal: S-130
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

*Priest:* 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.

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." He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. 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:

***All:* Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Priest:* 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.

***All: AMEN.***

**The Lord’s Prayer** Page 364

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

 **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**

*Priest:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Fraction Anthem: Hymnal S-164**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world, give us your peace, give us your peace.**

**Communion: Hymnal 593** *Lord make us servants of your peace*

**Postcommunion Prayer**  *Priest*: Let us pray. p. 365

 *Kneeling, the People join in saying the Post Communion Prayer.*

**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.**

***The priest pronounces a blessing, to which the people respond “Amen”***

**Dismissal**

*Priest:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

**Announcements**

**Hymn: Hymnal 618** *Ye watchers and ye holy ones*

**Serving in Today’s Service***Reader:* Dru van Hengel; *Intercessor:* Michael Cavanaugh; *Chalice Bearer:* Rose Anderson; *Acolyte:* James Ferrell; *Altar Guild:* Sarah Mayer, Florence and Paul Valanti, Sue Apuzzo

**Announcements**

**New Service! Joint Landmark Parish Service**

When: Tuesdays at Noon, Beginning February 14

Where: Trinity Episcopal Church

7 South Highland Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

**Epiphany Season: All Parish Read**
*Slaying Your Goliaths: How God Can Help* by The Rev. John Ohmer
This Epiphany (January 6- February 29) you are invited to read and participate in an online and in-person study of *Slaying Your Goliaths: How God Can Help*, by John Ohmer.
Discussions with Simple Lunch:
Sun., Feb. 26, 11:40 p.m.- 1 p.m., Sun. March 19, 11:40 p.m.-1 p.m.
Sign up for online discussion group.

**Morning Prayer**
When: Tuesday-Friday @ 8:45 a.m.
Where: All Saints’ Church

**Theology 101**

When: Sundays: 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

February 12, 19, 26; March 5

To sign up and receive more information, contact Mother Yejide ypeters@allsaintsbriarcliff.org.

**Women’s Bible Study: Currently studying Hebrews**

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. –noon
Location: All Saints’ Library

Join the Women’s Bible Study as they explore the Scripture, pray for one another and enjoy fellowship. For more information, contact Natalie Johnson, njrcake@icloud.com.

**Questions for Further Reflection**

 *The passage below and the subsequent commentary deal with the issues and ethics of life. This is a sensitive subject for many, and recognizing the complexity of issues, these reflections do not offer simple answers. Rather I hope, these questions will invite us to deeper engagement with the challenge of ethical discernment and the Christian life. Please know I am here for you, if you would like to speak with me about this, or any matter. –* *Mother Yejide**ypeters@allsaintsbriarcliff.org* *(914) 941-6955*

Moses said, “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

When you hear this passage, what comes to mind?

Following God by choosing life sounds like a pretty swell idea to most of us. Who doesn’t want prosperity and life? And yet, we must ask ourselves- are our hearts turned toward God? Do we hear?

How do you hear God? In what ways do you try to make direct contact with the Holy Spirit, or open yourself to hearing what God is saying to you? Do you think you do this well? How might you improve this relationship?

A secondary question might be: what are the other gods in your life? What things, persons, concepts, desires, interfere with your ability to listen to God? How might you live, more and more, as if God were the only Lord of your life? How would you know that your priorities had shifted?

The command to choose life is oft quoted. Since the 1970’s in the United States, some Christian leaders have taken this passage as the undergirding for the fight against legalized abortion, a stance that for shorthand they refer to as pro-life, and “choose life” is the Christian wing of the pro-life movement’s primary slogan. Living in our current time, it is very easy to imagine that we are the very first to encounter this language and this ethical dilemma, but it is not so. In fact, the Didaché a first century manual of Christian instruction, and one of the earliest Christian writings, expressly forbids abortion. At the same time, early Christian writers also strongly forbade a variety of practices we now deem acceptable ,or at least tolerable- from divorce (via the dominical command- the words of Jesus), to being an actor (because it involves deception), to serving as a soldier (because one must be willing to take life), to lending money for profit (because it might involve usury and deception.)

The precepts of this passage, and the complexity of what it means to “choose life” can hardly be reduced to a single issue, or for that matter, can it be said that one Christian response exists for the questions.

In doing so, we must keep in mind a need for a coherent ethic, one that is consistent in its priorities. That is, those who hold that abortion is at the very most a sin akin to murder, or at the very least, unchristian, must ask “why?” For most Christians who feel this way, the mandate to choose life, drawn from the passage above , and the command against murder are the primary scriptural basis. That being so, the question arises: will this person also embrace the other ethical implications of such an understanding? To stand against abortion primarily because of the Christian understanding of life as God-given, and taking life as sinful, does in fact trouble other “life-taking practices”. These practices include euthanasia, death via self-defense, capital punishment, the taking of life by soldiers and others who act on behalf of the state, and the remote taking of life via drones and other non-human military actors. Similarly, Christians who stand against capital punishment and military action because they are life-taking, must then examine their stance on abortion and other issues in this suite of “pro-life issues”.

This is not to oversimplify these issues. It is of course possible, and even human, to hold a variety of beliefs. It is, however, essential that members of Christian community take seriously the powerful implications of this passage, and the challenge of all moral and ethical reasoning grounded in our faith.

Our humility in the face of such difficult issues will allow us to maintain relationships, even as we may passionately disagree about these most challenging of issues. Above all, as Christians, we must be able to give a Christian account for our ethics, one that is grounded in our understanding of who Jesus is, and what the Christian life is all about.

What are your beliefs about euthanasia?

Military action that results in taking life?

Capital punishment?

Abortion?

Self-defense that results in taking life?

 Do you find that you have a consistent ethic?

Are some of those more, or less, repugnant to you?

Do you feel none, some, or all of these should be avoided by you? Should be avoided by all Christians? Should be unlawful for all?

Pray for those who find themselves facing the great dilemma of difficult moral choices. Pray for the humility to hear the understandings of other faithful people as we, grapple with the complexities of Christian ethics. Pray that we, as a church, will have the courage to engage in challenging moral conversations that are difficult, and yet, deepen our life together, trusting that in Christ, unity does not equal unanimity.

**All Saints’ Prayer List**

We invite you to bring the prayers of our community into your own daily prayer life.

All Saints’ prays for:

Our sister congregation at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility,

Our clergy: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our presiding bishop, Andrew, Allen, and Mary our bishops, Yejide our rector, and Ann our deacon;

Our elected leaders: especially Donald our president, members of Congress, Andrew our governor, Robert our County Executive and Lori our mayor;

The young adults of this congregation: Emily, Emma, Meredith, Tess, Heather, Anne, Natalie, Clara, Becca, Rachel, Drew, Charlie, Charlotte, James, Emily, Andrew, Richard, Andrew, Caroline, Madeline, Bobby, Ryan, Brandon, Will, Ricky, Claire, Sam, Dani, Michael, Emily, Ian, Jack, Sean, Chris, MacKenzie, Erynn, and Timothy;

Those sick or in need: Ellie, Reka, Jessica, George, Michelle, Rick, Natalie, Midge, James, Alison, Baby Girl Mone, Cate, Fran, Cathy, Heather, Alan, Caleb, Janet, Richard, Sarah, Anthony, Carter, Auralie, Bayard, Steve, Jeffrey, Maggie, Michael, the Gunn family

The beloved departed: Joann Gunn