

February 23, 2025
The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:00AM Family Holy Eucharist

The words of the liturgy and music are projected on the east wall.

<p><i>Processional Song</i> Opening Sentences, <i>Book of Common Prayer 355</i> The Liturgy of the Word The Collect of the Day A Reading / Psalm Song The Gospel Sharing the Good News The Creed The Prayers The Confession & Absolution The Peace BCP 360</p>	<p>Welcome & Announcements The Holy Communion <i>Offertory</i> The Great Thanksgiving: The Lord's Prayer BCP364 The Breaking of the Bread The Administration <i>Communion Song</i> Post Communion Prayer BCP 365 The Blessing <i>Song for the Procession Out</i> The Dismissal BCP 366</p>
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11:00AM CHORAL HOLY EUCHARIST
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD, RITE II

Procession In, standing *Christ Upon the Mountain Peak* Hymnal 129
The Opening Sentences The **Book of Common Prayer 355**

Song of Praise *The Gloria* Hymnal S278 BCP 356

The Collect of the Day, standing

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Note: In these final verses of this book we see Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers years before, forgiving those same brothers and embracing them. He reflects he sees the hand of God in all those years in his rise to prominence and power, powerful enough to exact a mighty vengeance. Perhaps God was also in this moment of forgiveness, giving life rather than death.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm 37: *Noli aemulari*

Note: This psalm meets us where we live. When we see the wicked prosper, we are angry and jealous (and miserable). The psalm offers an alternative. Turn to God and find your prosperity there.

1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.**

3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

**4 Take delight in the Lord, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.**

5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.

**6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.**

7 Be still before the Lord *
and wait patiently for him.

**8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

**10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

**12 But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**42 The Lord will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.**

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Note: The theme of resurrection continues with practical observation. What does a body which is resurrected look like? Paul's answer is hardly concrete. But the thrust of it is. It will not be like our present bodies. But it will be a body.

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Sequence Hymn, standing *In Christ There Is No East or West*
Hymnal 529

The Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Notes: The Sermon on the Level Place has Jesus not standing on the mountain (as in Luke), but coming down to the people with his teaching, like Moses coming down from Mt. Sinai to deliver the Law. It is also an echo of the Incarnation itself: God descending to us in flesh so we can meet him eye to eye.

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Homily The Rev. Frank Baltz, D. Min

Followed by silence for reflection
The Nicene Creed, standing BCP 358

The Prayers of the People, kneeling or standing
Greetings and Announcements
The Confession of Sin BCP 359

The Peace, standing BCP 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory
The Doxology, standing Hymnal 380, v3
The Sursum Corda BCP 367
The Sanctus Hymnal S125
The Canon, kneeling or standing.

THE GREAT AMEN BCP 368

The Lord's Prayer BCP 364

Breaking of the Bread BCP 364
Fraction Anthem Hymnal S167
Choir Meditation *Lord God, You Now Have Set Your Servant Free*
Choir

Post Communion Prayer, kneeling or standing BCP 365

Commissioning of Eucharistic Visitors
Priest: On behalf of this congregation, I give you these holy gifts, that those in whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.
People: We send you forth with the body and blood of Christ.

Recessional Hymn: *Jerusalem the Golden* Hymnal 624

The Blessing

The Dismissal Response BCP 366
Thanks be to God.

WE PRAY FOR:

Our Parish Family, especially

✠ **CLYDE, JOAN, PAIGE, CLAIRE, EVELYN, MARGE & ALAN, REZENDE FAMILY, JOAN, SOLOMON, VICTOR, MISSY, CAROLE, JUDITH, JOHN T, ANN, AL, JEAN, HUBIE, AMANDA, ROBIN, KIM, TED, FRED, REBA, FRAN, DAKOTA, MARGARET C, JOSEPH, JOANN, & DEACON JUDITH.**

✠ **FR . JAMIE.**

✠ **THE MINISTRIES OF ST. CLEMENT'S.**

✠ **HEIDI AND RUSS,** missionaries to Chile and pray for their new girls' ministry, the first since the Covid Outbreak.

Those in the Armed Forces, especially

✠ **DAVID, AMANDA, JERRY, NICK, BRANDON, MAGGIE, STEPHEN, DAVID, NOAH, KEVIN, & NATHAN.**

Others needing Intercessory Prayer:

✠ **HEALING: HILARY, DIANE, SANDRA, BEV, RYAN, DAN, MARTHA, PAM, PEGGY & FAMILY, KATHLEEN, STEVE, ANDY, SHI SHI & PAPA RED, PATTI, JUSTIN, ADRIAN, MICHAEL, ANN, ROBIN, THE PEOPLE OF MAUI, ELVIE, ELIZABETH, ROB, SONJA, FRANK, MOLLY, MAUREEN, BRUCE, KRISTI, RAYMOND, GRACE, LESLIE, PAUL, MARK, LIZ, JOHN, KENNETH, JOE, MISTY, LORI, PAT, CATHY, JEFF, EMORY, BEAU, JOANN, DEBBIE, CAROL, GORDAN, BEVERLY, LUPINA, LORA, ERIC, LEELANO, MADI SON, TYLER, KENNY, COLT, ANDREW, PHIL, DONALD, LORELLA, KATHY, URSLA, PRISCILLA & LARRY.**

✠ **COMFORT: RYAN & THE BARRE FAMILY.**

✠ **ARBOR: PHYLLIS, FRAN, LIZ, BETTY, MARY, ROSE, BOBBY, LESLIE, ANN & ART, BOB, KEIRSEY & OLGA.**

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

Please take the bulletin home and pray for these concerns during the week.

Those from the parish family & intercessory prayer list remain on the list for two months and then are deleted unless notification is given to extend, update, re condition, or delete sooner because special prayers are no longer needed. Those in the armed forces remain for one year with the same conditions as above. Notice may be given to the church office in the Ministry Center at 770-345-6722. Prayer request cards are in the church pews, or requests can be made by calling the church office. Please email or call Trish Cole at 770-377-4348 to update your prayer requests.

Living the Christ-like Life

The Sermon on the Level Place (in Matthew), like the Sermon on the Mount (in Luke), lays out the kind on moral and ethical life prescribed by the teachings of Jesus. One of the ways to read these passages is by looking at them not only as affirmative demands for our good behavior, but also as responsive demands to our bad behavior.

In other words, Jesus wouldn't be telling us to live our lives in a certain way if we weren't already making a hash out of our lives.

The problem is that this way of living our lives is normal for us. We naturally hate our enemies. We often expect a return for our love. We are constantly making judgements on people, especially those we disagree with. Forgiveness doesn't come easy to us. We have learned all these things since we were little, and we are reinforced in this thinking on a daily basis.

Jesus' proposal is therefore just as revolutionary today as it was when he gave this sermon. Jesus turns everything upside down. The question for us is whether we are going to take him seriously.

As a practical matter, we can see these normalized negative behaviors have caused a lot of pain in the world, including our own pain. And yet, as if we were on automatic pilot, we keep acting the same way.

Two points. First, we should endeavor to follow the principle of unconditional love in our practical life. Second, we must acknowledge that we cannot accomplish such a thing on our own. We must acknowledge we need the work of the Spirit in our lives for the wisdom, the strength, and the resolve to be God's Christ-like agents in the world.

Jamie ✠

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us immediately after each service for fellowship across the parking lot in Davis Hall!

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:
St Clement's Episcopal Church
PO Box 36
Holly Springs, GA 30142-0001

- Update *address book*
- Update *Bill Pay*
- Update *Banks*

Cherokee Chorale Spring Concert April 19
1:00 and 4:00pm at the Falany Performing Arts Center at Reinhardt University

Outreach Opportunities!

Feeling passionate about serving our community? Join our dynamic team of Outreach Ministry Leaders to head our Coat Drive this winter, and Give-the-Kid-a-Chance Backpack drive next fall. Please contact Maragaret Garwatoski at 678-472-5311 or Sallee MacKnik at 770-714-6340.

Tuesdays:
The Men's Group
11:30am at IHOP, 3010 Northside Parkway, Canton Contact: stclementsmens-group@gmail.com.

Wednesdays:
Rector's Bible Study
Will be cancelled until March, as Father Jamie will be out-of-town.

NO Holy Eucharist 6:15pm

- 6:45pm Meal
- 7:00pm EYC, 1st & 3rd Wed. of each month
- 7:00pm Bible Study

Thursdays:
Path to Shine 2:00pm to 5:00pm in Davis Hall. This is a school children's mentoring group.

Fridays:
Centering Prayer:
12:30pm in the church. All are invited. Please contact Fr. Jamie (770) 324-2035 or Diane Hodgins (850) 338-8540.

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler, *rector*
770-324-2035

Email
frjamie@stclementscanton.org

Liz Bouis, Parish Administrator
Gloria Blackburn, Parish Assistant
770-345-6722
Email
stclements@stclementscanton.org

Online Giving is available through our website www.stclementscanton.org or by the Vanco app on your smart phone.

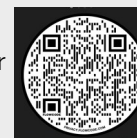
The Altar Guild
Dates are available for flower dedications if you have someone or some event special to commemorate. See the flowered notebook in the narthex and cost is \$50.. Please contact Trish Cole (770)-377-4348 or trishcole4@gmail.com.

Our Parish Cares for You
Our church offers a variety of Parish Care Ministries to provide support in times of need led by both clergy and a dedicated team of lay volunteers. For more information, please pick up a brochure from the narthex of the church.


Joyful Noise Band
Do you have a musical talent that is longing to break free? Our Joyful Noise Band plays during the third Sunday of every month and some of the combined services. If you are interested in joining, please contact Judy Reardon at judy.reardon@icloud.com.

New Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00—2:00
Wednesday 9:00—11:00

Scan to visit our website for more information.



Serving Today:
VPOD: Tim Woltering/Kay Morrison
Crucifer: Doug Blackburn
Epistle Torch: Michael Schirk
Gospel Torch: Wayne Smoak
LEM: Diane Hodgins
Reader: Solomon Osazenaye
Teller: Scott Bureson

 **Birthdays this week:**
Joan Imke 2/24
Sharon Nelson 2/24
Larry Ellis 2/27
Joseph Burford 2/29

 **Anniversaries this week:**
Wanda and Jim Carr 2/28

TREASURER'S SUMMARY
as of December 2024

Pledges YTD	\$259,430
Total Income	\$426,600
Total Expenses	\$426,600



Welcome Visitors!
If you are visiting for the first time, let us know you are here by filling out a visitor's card and ask an usher about a gift we have for you in the narthex (foyer).

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

Regular Sunday Services //9am Contemporary //11am Traditional
First Sunday of each month// 10am Combined Service

MONDAY
No Morning Prayer (online) // 9:00am
Grief Share // 10:30am

THURSDAY
Canton AL-Anon // 7:00pm
Path to Shine // 2:00pm to 5:00pm

TUESDAY
Bible Study- The Way // 1:30pm
Men's Group, IHOP // 11:30am
Alcoholics Anonymous // 8:00pm.

FRIDAY
Morning Prayer (online) // 9:00am.
Service @ Arbors // 10:30a.m
Women's AA // 12:00 noon
Centering Prayer // 12:30pm

WEDNESDAY
No Morning Prayer (online) // 9:00am.
Women's AA // 12:00pm.
No Rector's Zoom Bible Study // 12:00pm
No Holy Eucharist // 6:15pm
Meal // 6:45pm
EYC // 7:00pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Bible Study // 7:00pm

The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God and by Wanda and Jill Carr on their 38th Wedding Anniversary

Mailing address: PO Box 36, Holly Springs, Georgia 30142-0001
Phone 770-345-6722 | **Web** www.stclementscanton.org