

Christ Episcopal Church

Reading, Pennsylvania

Christ is All and in All



A Celebration of Life
March 18, 2023

The Rt Revd John Croneberger
August 25, 1938—February 23, 2023



In the morning hours of February 23, 2023, our dad died quietly and peacefully in his sleep. It was not always how he lived his life, rallying and loving and supporting the least of us, the flawed, the marginalized. Bravely and with gusto, bringing awareness to unfairness and hope to the weary, Dad was a faithful servant to his God. He was a loving and supportive husband and father. And he was a shining light and humorous respite from difficulty and sadness for all who sought his guidance. As Bishop and earlier as parish priest, he was a staunch supporter of a woman's right to be a deacon, priest, or bishop and as a soldier for equality, he fought to give LGBTQ men and women a seat at the communion table. During the Vietnam War, he was arrested at the Pentagon when he and Mom took the Eucharist to the government workers who were not allowed to leave the compound. The charge was "a loud and unusual noise in a public place". Dad was loud with his convictions, and some would say unusual in his ability to challenge the unacceptable. See Dad was one of those people who always wanted to understand the protagonist's side of the story. He wanted to understand motive and show compassion when most did not have any compassion left to give. He saw things through to completion and this sometimes included expanding his parameters and challenging himself to think outside his comfort zone. He was as much a student as he was a teacher. The Rt. Rev. John Palmer Croneberger was a shepherd to his flock, a leader of leaders, a warm and compassionate man. And he was a gentle, funny, thoughtful dad. Parkinson took a robust man and reduced him to a frail child-like patient. He suffered for many years but until the day he died, our dad was still cracking dad jokes. I don't think I will ever in my lifetime meet a kinder or funnier human being. He will live on as an example to countless people of what leadership married with love and humility looks like. For us, he will always be Dad. At the end of the day, for us, he was just our dad. And so there is finally closure and we mourn our loss, celebrate his life, and give thanks for finally knowing he's at peace. "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Tim Croneberger)



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March 18, 2023

12noon

Organ Preludes	<i>Jesu, Joy of man's desiring</i>	JS Bach
	<i>Blessed are Ye Faithful Souls</i>	Johannes Brahms
	<i>Two Sinfonias</i>	
	<i>God's Times is the best Time</i>	
	<i>I stand at the threshold</i>	JS Bach

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last he will stand upon the earth. After my awaking, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies. For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession.

Opening Hymn 287 *For all the saints*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed.
Alleluia, alleluia! | 4. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, alleluia! |
| 2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
thou, Lord, their Captain in the wellfought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light. Alleluia, alleluia! | 5. The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia! |
| 3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia! | 6. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, alleluia! |

Please be seated

Remembrances

Richard Croneberger
Jennifer Croneberger

Please stand

The Collect for the Departed

 The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Jack. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The First Reading: Job 19.21-27a

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? 'O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

 The Word of the Lord:
People **Thanks be to God.**

Solo *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* arr. Hall Johnson
Soloist: Runette Gabrielle, Soprano

The Second Reading: Revelation 21.2-7

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

People The Word of the Lord:
 Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Hymn 293

I sing a song of the saints of God

1. I sing a song of the saints of God,
 patient and brave and true,
 who toiled and fought and lived and died
 for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
 and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God and I mean,
 God helping, to be one too.

2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
 and his love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
 the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
 and one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
and there's not any reason no, not the least,
 why I shouldn't be one too.

3. They lived not only in ages past,
there are hundreds of thousands still,
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

The Holy Gospel: John 6.37-40

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

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

Please be seated

The Homily

The Rt Revd Carlye J Hughes

Please stand

The Apostles Creed

Celebrant In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us
proclaim our faith and say,

All **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.

Celebrant For our brother Jack, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I Resurrection and I am Life."

Intercessor Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Jack, and dry the tears of those who weep.

All **Hear us, Lord.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Jack, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you:
People **And also with you.**

Offertory Music—David Cullen *“Blowin’ in the Wind”* by Peter, Paul and Mary
“My Sweet Lord” by George Harrison

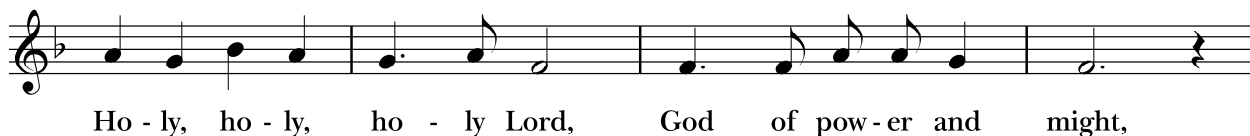
Please Stand

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B, page 367 in the black books)

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. 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:

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

People Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
 We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

People 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

People Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

The Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Communion Music—David Cullen “*Hey Jude*” by The Beatles

Communion Hymn 693 *Just as I am*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come. | 4. Just as I am: thou wilt receive;
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come. |
| 2. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come. | 5. Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come. |
| 3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come. | 6. Just as I am, of thy great love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to
prove,
here for a season, then above:
O Lamb of God, I come. |

Communion Hymn 671 *Amazing Grace*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see. | 4. Through many dangers, toils, and
snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home. |
| 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to
fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed! | 5. When we've been there ten thousand
years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun. |
| 3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. | |

Please stand

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray
Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Commendation

The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the body.

Rector Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
People **where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Bishop You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Celebrant Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Jack. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Closing Hymn 688 *A mighty fortress is our God*

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his Name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils
filled,
should threaten to undo us;
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us;
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.
4. That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
his kingdom is for ever.

Organ Postlude *Toccata from the Fifth Organ Symphony*

Charles Marie Widor

Service Participants

Celebrant

The Rt Revd Kevin Nichols

Preacher

The Rt Revd Carlye J Hughes

Assisting Liturgist

The Revd Bryce Wandrey

Gospeller

The Revd Midge Pendergast

Lectors

Jennifer Wheaton

Steven Brisk

Organist and Choir Master

James K Wilson

Communion Assistants

Ellen Sunderman, Wayne Fanning, Chris Spohn and Andrea Griffith

Crucifer

Andrea Griffith

Ushers

David Emes, Walt Frankowski, Doris Schilpp, David Thun and Larry Whalen



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Cover Image: *Christ and Mary Magdalene in the Garden* by Fra Angelico