

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Isle of Hope**  
**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 17, 2023**

**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE ONE**  
**8:00 AM**

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 323

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**  
*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

BCP 182

*Celebrant* Let us pray. O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Bulletin 5

Psalm 114

Bulletin 4

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Bulletin 6

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

Bulletin 7 or BCP 326

The Prayers of the People

Bulletin 8

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

BCP 331

The Peace

BCP 332

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

The Presentation of the Gifts

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.  
*People* **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 340

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Fraction

BCP 337

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 339

The Blessing & Dismissal

Bulletin 12

**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO**  
**9:30 AM & 11:15 AM**

PRELUDE

*Prelude On "Bread of Life"*

Arr. Gordon Young

THE OPENING HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Hymnal #390

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
    join the great throng,  
    psaltery, organ, and song,  
    sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:  
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.  
    Hast thou not seen  
    how all thou needest hath been  
    granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;  
    ponder anew  
    what the Almighty can do,  
    who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
    Let the amen  
    sound from his people again;  
    gladly for ever adore him.

*All children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to follow the small cross out of the church into the chapel for children's chapel. Adults or older siblings are welcome to accompany them. They will return to the church at the Peace.*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

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

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

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
 on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 233

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Celebrant* Let us pray. O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from Exodus.

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. The Word of the Lord.

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

PSALM 114 *said in unison*

BCP 756

**1 Hallelujah!**

**When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**

**2 Judah became God's sanctuary \*  
and Israel his dominion.**

**3 The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went back.**

**4 The mountains skipped like rams, \*  
and the little hills like young sheep.**

**5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?**

**6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*  
you little hills like young sheep?**

**7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,**

**8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from the book of Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God. The Word of the Lord.

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

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Litanist* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

*Litanist* Father, enliven the Church for its mission.

*People* **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

*Litanist* Breathe fresh life into your people.

*People* **Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.**

*Litanist* We pray for the world: especially those people and places we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

*People* **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

*Litanist* Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

*People* **Teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

*Litanist* We pray for our community: especially our military, first responders, and their families. God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

*People* **That all may act with integrity and courage.**

*Litanist* Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

*People* **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

*Litanist* We pray for those in need: especially those we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

*People* **May they know the power of your healing love.**

*Litanist* Make us willing agents of your compassion.

*People* **Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.**

*Litanist* We remember those who have died and those who mourn: especially those we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Father, into your hands we commend them.

*People* **Give comfort to those who mourn.**

*Litanist* We praise you for the blessed Virgin Mary, for Thomas, and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

*People* **May their example inspire and encourage us.**

*Litanist* Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence with your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

**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.**

ABSOLUTION

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.**

THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Love Grows Here*

arr. Don Besig

THE DOXOLOGY(v 3) (9:30 am)

Hymnal # 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 PRESENTATION (11:15 am)

*Celebrant* All things come of you, O Lord.

*People* **And of your own have we given you. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 1

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

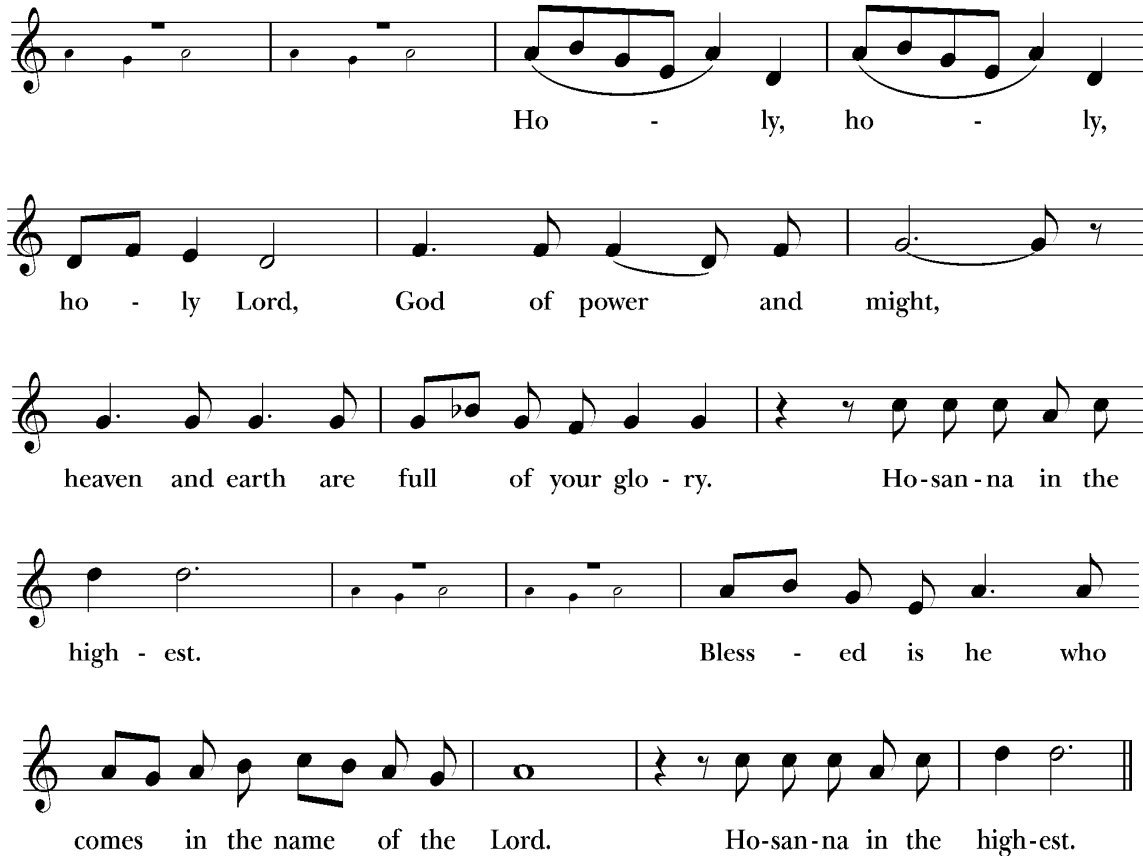
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all Creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):



Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel, and the Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thomas, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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 FRACTION

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

*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.

HYMNS AT COMMUNION

“Come to me”

arr. Dan Forrest  
Carolyn Cohen, Solo

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Those unable to take communion today may pray this prayer.*

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ’s presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ’s passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

*Celebrant* In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body as we all share the one bread and the one cup. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Clergy and People*

**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. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Be careful as you go into God's creation, for it does not belong to you. Be gentle to yourself and to each other, for you are the dwelling place of God. Be alert, and be silent, for God is a whisper. And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

*O bless the Lord, my Soul!*

Hymnal pg. 411

1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!  
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!  
 3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;  
 4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;  
 5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!  
 2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.  
 3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.  
 4 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.  
 5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

6 Then bless his holy Name,  
 whose grace hath made thee whole,  
 whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:  
 O bless the Lord, my soul!

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our 19<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary donated by Peggy and John Varnedoe.*

## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

<i>Vestry on Duty:</i> (9:30 a.m.) Paige Case	(11:15 a.m.) Eleanor Foster
<i>Lectors:</i> (8:00) Dave White      (9:30 a.m.) Paige Case	(11:15 a.m.) Bill Franklin
<i>Lay Eucharistic Minister:</i> (8:00) Dave White (9:30) Tracy Edgar and Jane Gilchrist	
<i>Lay Eucharistic Visitors:</i> Dave White	<i>Acolyte:</i> Jack Lemburg
<i>Ushers:</i> (9:30 a.m.) David Castleberry and Alton Aimar	(11:15 a.m.) Bill Franklin
<i>Hospitality:</i> Marie Centgraf and Judy Holland	<i>Worship Tech:</i> Luke Varner
<i>Altar Guild:</i> Beth Wall, Sandra Calver, Jennifer Calver, Kelley Marshall, and Sheldon White	
<i>Cantor:</i> Carolyn Cohen	<i>Children's Chapel:</i> Eva Aguilar

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 17	10:40 a.m. Service Sunday 10:50 a.m. Cursillo reunion group meeting in the St. Thomas Room. 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. EYC Butterbean Beach Party
Tuesday, September 19	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m. Clericus Meeting at St. Thomas
Wednesday, September 20	11:30 a.m. Healing Service in the Chapel. 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir
Thursday, September 21	5:00-8:00 Isle of Hope Historical Association Meeting

**Service Sunday**

Service Sunday is today at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall. We will be filling blessing bags to give to people in need.

**EYC Butterbean Beach Party**

Join us today for swimming and games (Rodney J Hall Boat Ramp on the way out to Skidaway Island) for an afternoon with beach activities! We'll play games and swim so bring a towel and \$5 for pizza dinner. Email Matt Rice at [matt@stthomasioh.org](mailto:matt@stthomasioh.org).

**Cursillo Reunion Group Meeting**

If anyone is interested in starting or participating in a Cursillo reunion group, please join us in the St. Thomas room between the services this Sunday after the blessing bags are finished.

**Acolyte and Lay Eucharistic Minister Trainings next Sunday.**

The clergy will be offering training for new and returning acolytes and LEMs on Sunday, September 24 at 10:40 am in the church. If you have questions, please contact Rev Melanie.

## **Choir and Handbell Rehearsal Time Change**

Handbell rehearsals will take place weekly on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal will be held weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. On the first Wednesday of the month, choir rehearsal will be at 7:00 p.m. to allow for Wednesday Night Supper.

## **Inquirer's Class & Confirmation – TBA**

All those who are interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church, being received into membership and/or being confirmed are asked to please contact Rev. Melanie ASAP. A new date for the class is being selected. Confirmation will take place when Bishop Frank Logue visits St. Thomas on December 17.

## **Coffee or Communion with Colette**

Our new Associate Rector, Rev. Colette, is eager to get to know everyone better and is extending an invitation to all parishioners for a one-on-one coffee hour or in-home communion. Click the link in the Monday emails or see Rev. Colette to sign up for a time to meet!

## WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS

If you are new or with us for the first time, thank you for joining us at worship. We hope you will join us again. Restrooms are available in our parish hall and Christian Education buildings. Nursery care is available in our Christian Education building for children ages 0-4. Please, see an usher to assist you in locating the nursery if that is the preferred option for your family. Children are always welcome to stay in the church at St. Thomas as they are full members of the body of Christ. If you do choose to utilize our nursery, we hope you will bring your children back into church to receive communion or a blessing. We also have a Children's Chapel for the first part of the service (the Liturgy of the Word). Children in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to follow the little cross in the opening procession where they will exit to go to our chapel. Adults are welcome to accompany them if that would be helpful. The children will return to the church from Children's Chapel at the Peace.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to be fed at God's table. When it is your turn, hold your hands out open in front of you to receive the bread. When the cup of wine comes to you, help guide it to your mouth to take a sip, dip the top of the wafer into the cup, or signify that you want to abstain from drinking by crossing your arms over your chest. If you would like to learn more about the customs of our tradition, please, contact The Rev. Melanie Lemburg.

Please, fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and give to one of the clergy or the ushers or scan the QR code and fill out our virtual connection card so we may greet you more formally in the days to come.



As you travel throughout the year, remember that it is easy and safe to give through our website: <https://www.stthomasioh.org/give> or on Venmo @StThomasEpiscopalChurch.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS  
**Pet Blessing**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

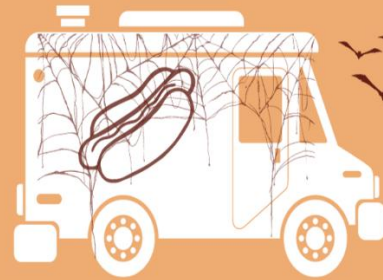
5:00 PM

UNDER THE PAVILION

All furry, feathery,  
slithery, and slimy friends  
are welcome!



**SPOOKY BINGO**



**October 19th**

**ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Naked Dog Food Truck & yard games

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Bingo

Bingo at no cost, donations accepted for beverages. Costumes are encouraged.



**SCAROWINDS TRIP**



When: Sat Oct 28th - Sun Oct 29th

Where: Carowinds Park in Charlotte NC

Spending the night @: Episcopal Church of our Savior  
in Rock Hill SC

Price: \$115 a person



**THE ANNUAL  
HONEY CREEK AUCTION**  
at the 202nd Convention of the Diocese of  
Georgia

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN GATHERING

**SILENT AUCTION  
ITEMS**

Please start considering what unique and fun auction items you  
or your parish might donate!

CONTACT BETH BAKER (CHRIST CHURCH, VALDOSTA)  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS  
BETHBAKER@BELLSOUTH.NET OR TEXT 229-251-1143

The Rt. Rev. Frank Sullivan Logue, Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Melanie Lemburg, Rector  
The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr, Associate Rector  
Amy Jo Washabaugh, Parish Administrator  
Tripp Hardee, Minister of Music  
Greg Washabaugh, Sexton  
Dianne Jones, Nursery Supervisor  
Matt Rice, EYC Youth Coordinator  
Olivia Kate Castleberry, Communications Intern

**The Vestry**

Eleanor Foster, Senior Warden  
Paige Case, Stewart Marshall, Co-Junior Wardens  
Mitch Green, Treasurer  
Boo McCullough, Clerk

Charlie Barrow

Joseph Bernard

Mary Blaney

Paige Case

David Castleberry

Chris Conner

Eleanor Foster

Mary Haley

Susan Hailey

Stewart Marshall

Jim Moore

Annie Quaile

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