

**ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ISLE OF HOPE**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 10, 2026**

*We are a welcoming community of faith and love that serves one another  
and seeks to draw others to God through our ministries.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*Because He Lives*

arr. Joel Raney  
Sydney Green, piano  
Tripp Hardee, organ

**THE OPENING HYMN**

*I sing the almighty power of God*

Hymnal #398

**THE OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**THE GLORIA**

S-278

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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 225

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

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Acts 17: 22-31

A Reading from The Book of Acts.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

PSALM 66:7-18 (*read responsively by half verse*)

BCP 673

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
**and will not allow our feet to slip**

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
**you have tried us just as silver is tried.**

10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
**you laid heavy burdens upon our backs**

11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; \*  
**but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.**

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, \*  
**which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; \*  
**I will give you oxen and goats.**

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
**and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
**and his praise was on my tongue**

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
**the Lord would not have heard me;**

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
**he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
**nor withheld his love from me.**

## A Reading from First Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

*Come down, O Love divine*

Hymnal #516

THE GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr

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

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Litanist* God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,

*People* **Receive our prayer.**

*Litanist* You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God,

*People* **Receive our prayer.**

- Litanist* You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**
- Litanist* You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. We pray for those we name aloud or silently within our hearts (*brief silence*). Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**
- Litanist* You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**
- Litanist* God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**
- Litanist* God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

#### A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms. Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have died; for the mothers who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered others in any way—those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. **Amen.**

#### THE PEACE

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

#### ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Gift of Love*

arr. Hal Hopson

FESTAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here be-  
low: al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly  
host, praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost: al-le-  
lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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8:00 am – Eucharistic Prayer I – BCP 333

10:00 am - Eucharistic Prayer D – BCP 372

*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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise.

Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Anna Alexander, Thomas, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant* 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.**

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
 sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

*Celebrant*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

*Wayfaring Stranger*

arr. Brian D. Peterson  
 Elijah & Sydney Green

*Spirit Song*

Cantors

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.

**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 FOUR PART EASTER BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

*O Love that wilt not let me go*

1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in  
2. O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flick - ering torch to  
3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not close my heart to  
4. O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to fly from

thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
 thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that  
 thee; I trace the rain-bow thru the rain, and  
 thee; I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
 feel the prom - ise is not vain, that morn shall tear - less be.  
 from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end - less be.

WORDS: George Matheson, 1882  
 MUSIC (ST. MARGARET 88.886): Albert L. Peace, 1884

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*God Be with You til We Meet Again*

William G. Tomer

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE POSTLUDE

*March Jubilant*

Paul Fey

*The flowers on the altar are given to the greater glory of God by Dick and Nancy Young in celebration of their anniversary and in memory of loved ones.*

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

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*Acolytes: Crucifer:* Billy Steinhauer      *Book Bearer:* Vivian Bernard  
*Lay Eucharistic Minister:* (8:00 am) Dave White  
(10:00 am) Susan Tutan-Gonzales and Sheldon White  
*Lectors:* (8:00 am) Dave White      (10:00 am) Barry Wilson  
*Lay Eucharistic Visitor:* Bob Lupacchino  
*Hospitality:* Joyce Family  
*Ushers:* Bob Lupacchino and Andrew Lyons  
*Vestry on Duty:* Claudia Welch  
*Worship Tech:* Tino Aguilar  
*Altar Guild:* Stacie Bacon, Tracy Edgar, Mary Haley, and Salli White  
*Nursery:* Dianne Jones and Eva Aguilar  
*Children's Chapel:* Elizabeth Varner and Sallie Strickland  
*Cantors:* Emma Reardon, Elijah Green, and Kaleb Reavis  
*Guest Musician:* Sydney Green

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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Sunday, May 10	9:00 am	Bible Study in the library
	5:30 pm	AA Meeting in the CE Building
Monday, May 11	10:00 am	Planning in the CE Building
	1:30 pm	Created to Craft in the CE Building
	3:00 pm	Monday Mahjong
	6:00 pm	Search Committee Meeting in the Library
	6:00 pm	Vestry Meeting in the Parish Hall
Tuesday, May 12	9:00 am	Staff Meeting
	11:30 am	Lunch Bunch
	6:00 pm	Tour of Homes Meeting in the Parish Hall
Wednesday, May 13	7:30 am	Unseen Guest Cooks
	11:30 am	Healing Service in the Chapel
	2:00 pm	Communion at River's Edge
	5:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Choir Practice

## **May Outreach**

For May, we'll be collecting donations for Episcopal Youth and Children's Services. EYCS provides need-based college scholarships for undergraduates and financial assistance for children who might otherwise not be able to go to Summer Camp at Honey Creek, the Episcopal Camp & Conference Center of the Diocese of Georgia. To date, the EYCS Trust has provided over \$1,000,000 in college scholarships for over a thousand youth of the diocese, and in just the past few years, has given over \$40,000 to allow hundreds of children the chance to attend Honey Creek Summer Camp. Donations can be put in the marked box in the parish hall or the offering plate on Sundays.

## **Altar Flowers**

We have spots available on **May 31, June 21 and August 9** if you'd like to purchase flowers for the altar in honor of, in memory of, or in thanksgiving for something or someone. The signup sheet is in the parish hall. Flowers can be ordered from any local florist and usually run around \$160 for two large vases. Contact Annie Quaile for more details at [squareanne@gmail.com](mailto:squareanne@gmail.com).

## **Tour of Homes Meeting**

Every other year, the Women of St. Thomas' host a Tour of Homes in December—an event that takes the entire parish to bring to life. On Tuesday, May 12th, we'll gather at 6:00 pm in the parish hall to begin planning this year's tour. Whether you're a veteran or brand new, we invite you to come and see where your gifts can be used. There is a place for everyone!

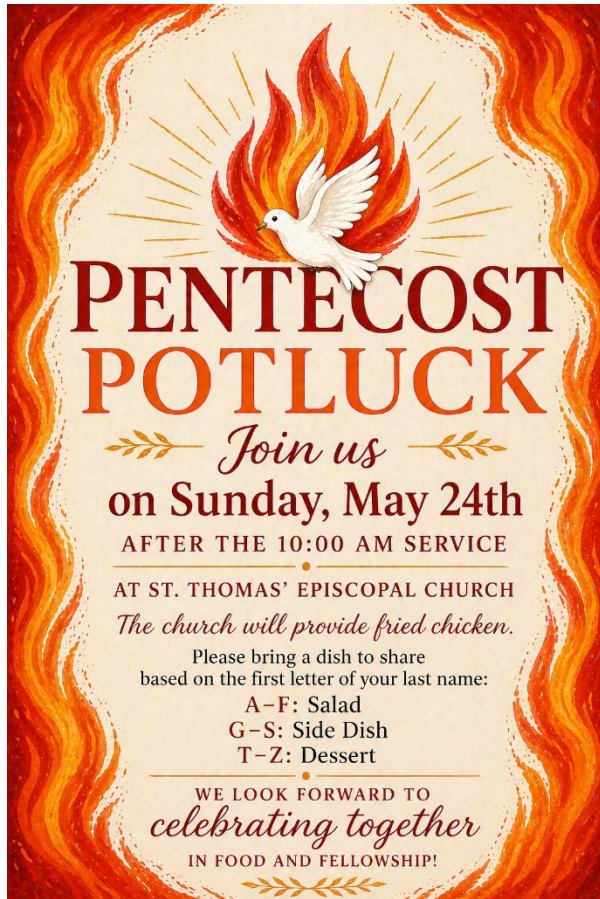
## **Lunch Bunch this Tuesday, May 12th!**

Annie Quaile and Jane Gilchrist will be talking about their experiences while walking the Camino Trail, a network of trails which lead to the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago Spain, the resting place of St. James. They went on their pilgrimages at separate times, but each have experiences to share. Check the Monday email to RSVP or call the church office.

## **Goodbye Eli...**

Today is Eli Green's last Sunday with us as a cantor. Thank you for sharing your gifts so generously and helping lead us in prayer through music. Your presence has been a true blessing to this community. We send you with our gratitude and prayers.

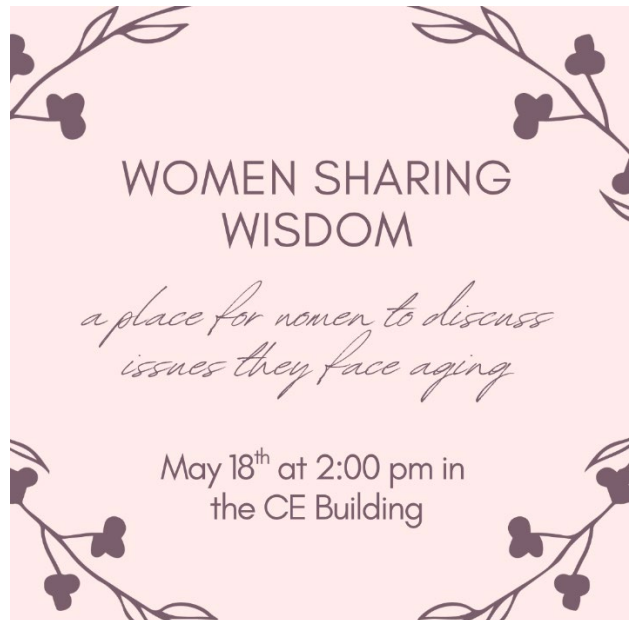
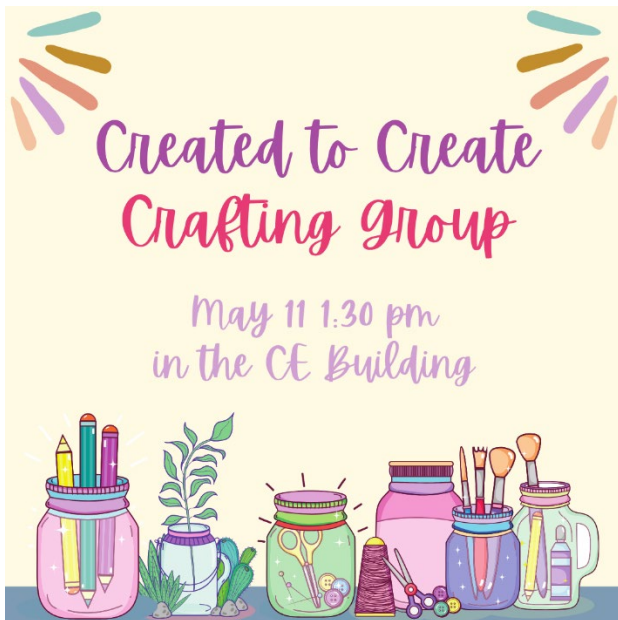
## Pentecost Sunday – May 24th



Pentecost is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

We invite all who have joined the parish over the past year to be present at one of the services as we welcome you and offer prayers for you. If you feel called to make St. Thomas' your church home, please let Rev. Colette know.

Join us after the 10:00 am service for a Pentecost Potluck! Please see the graphic for what to bring based on the first letter of your last name.



## WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS

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Welcome!

We're so glad you're here to worship with us. Restrooms are in the Parish Hall and the Christian Education (CE) Building.

Children's faith formation is offered during the 10:00 am service for infants through 5th grade. In the Nursery (ages 0–4), children sing, hear Bible stories, enjoy crafts, play, and have a snack. If you use the nursery, we invite you to bring your child back into the church to receive Communion or a blessing.

During the school year, children are invited to participate in Children's Chapel during the first part of the service. They will process out behind the cross to the CE Building and return to the church at the Peace. Parents and caregivers are always welcome to accompany their child to either the nursery or Children's Chapel. If you have any questions, an usher will be happy to help.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians—of any age or denomination—are welcome to receive Holy Communion. At St. Thomas', we share the common cup. You may either consume the bread and sip from the chalice or hold your bread and dip (intinct) when the chalice comes to you. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

If you'd like to learn more about our worship or traditions, please feel free to speak with The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr.

We'd love to stay connected—please fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and return it to a member of the clergy or an usher so we can greet you more personally in the days ahead.

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If you would like to give electronically towards our offering today or if you are traveling during the year, there are two easy and safe options: through our website at [www.stthomasioh.org/give](http://www.stthomasioh.org/give) or through Venmo

