

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 8

June 28, 2020

ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Welcome to St. Francis' Episcopal Church where all are accepted and validated!

Lectionary Year A Daily Office Year 2

The Liturgy is from The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and other approved liturgical sources. Scripture readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version bible. All music is reproduced under One License # A-707318

The Prayers of the People are adapted from "Intercessions for the Christian People" The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota. Gail Ramshaw, editor.

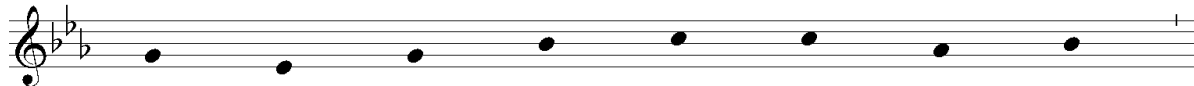
*In the absence of the Deacon the Celebrant assumes those liturgical roles.
In the absence of the Celebrant the Deacon serves as Officiant.*

A Service of Spiritual Communion

Our Sunday worship service will be available for you to share in, beginning at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday, on Facebook and Zoom.

This copy of the bulletin contains everything needed for today's worship. You are encouraged to respond and sing out loud with all persons gathered in your home.

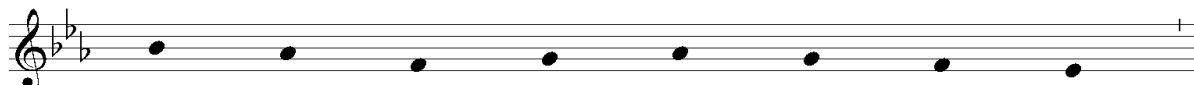
Prelude



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3 When this old world drew on toward night,
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Celebrant greets the People and they respond

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

BCP 355

The Celebrant then says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God in the Highest

Hymnal S277



1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



2. Lord God, hea-ven-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/ Prayer of the Day

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then says

In solidarity with our Bishop Deon Johnson, together, let us say this prayer for the healing of our nation and an end to the sin of racism and white supremacy.

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we

might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Reading

The Lector says

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Genesis 22: 1-14

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 13

Usquequo, Domine?

BCP 597

1 How long, O LORD?

will you forget me for ever? *

how long will you hide your face from me?
2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day? *
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
3 Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; *
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
6 I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

The Second Reading

The Lector says

A reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky

WLP 812

All Verses

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays a simple melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2.

Unison

Unison vocal line in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

Piano accompaniment for the first verse. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2.

Unison vocal line in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them, They turn a -
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will

Piano accompaniment for the second verse. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a bass line of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2.

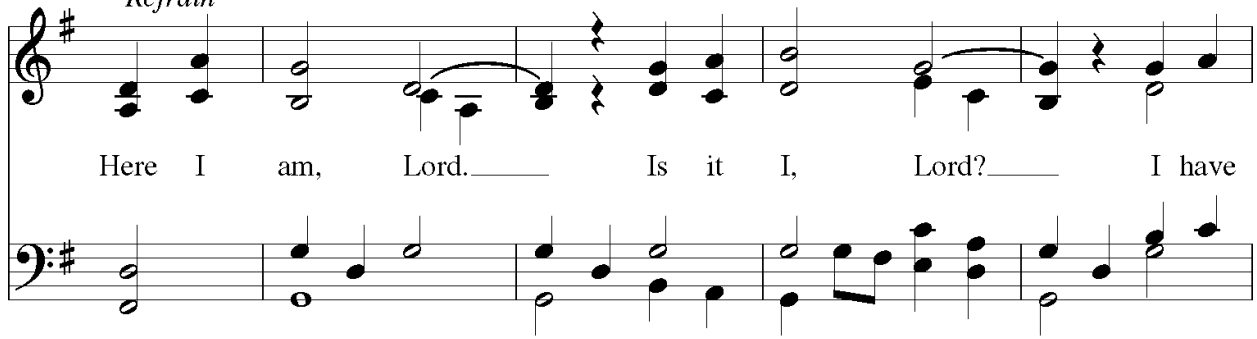
save.
way.
save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will break their hearts of stone,
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

light to them? Whom shall I send? _____
word to them. Whom shall I send? _____
life to them. Whom shall I send? _____

Refrain



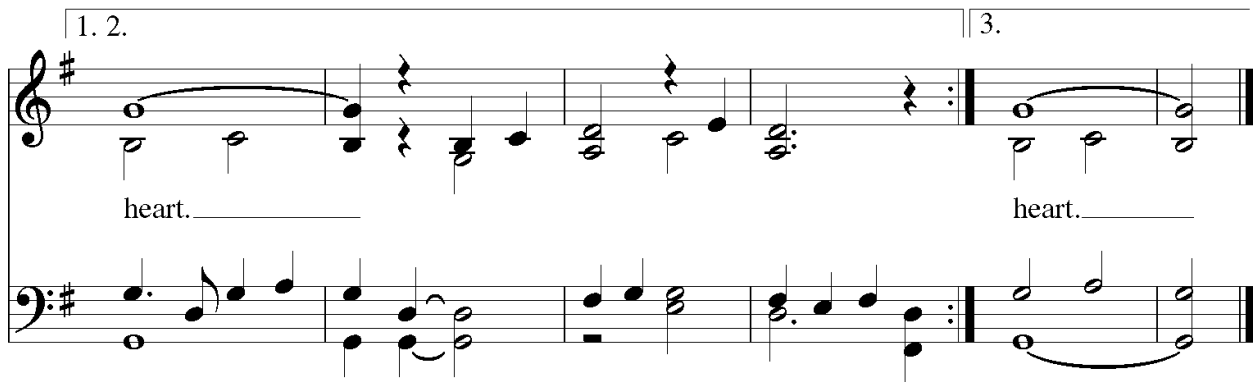
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have



heard you call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord,



if you lead me, I will hold your peo - ple in my



heart. heart.

The Gospel

The Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *10:40-42*

Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

After the Gospel the Deacon says

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon *Children and Adult*

The Rev. Alfred Jewson

To allow for your personal reflection, a time of silence will be kept following the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

All say together

**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

*During the (Pause), the intercessor will allow time for worshipers to offer their
biddings of thanksgiving or concern.*

The Deacon introduces the Prayers of the People

God has called us to be priests for all peoples, offering to God the world's concerns.
Let us then pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people
according to their needs, saying together, hear our prayer.

Intercessor

Blessed are you, our sovereign God: for you do not abandon what you have created
but continue to make your grace known among us. We thank you for those you have
chosen to speak your reconciling word in this age, and we pray for the grace to
receive it. We pray for the leaders of the Church, especially, Presiding Bishop
Michael, Bishop Deon, Alfred our priest and Rebecca our deacon; for the people and
ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and Mark their rector and Jerre their
deacon; for Delengwa Parish in the Diocese of Lui, South Sudan, and Sylvia their
priest; for the Deaconess Anne House interns, and those discerning a call to ordained
ministry. *(Pause)* Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, our God of compassion: for you hear the cries of the poor, you see the tears in the eyes of all who mourn, you feel the pain of those in anguish, and you come to the side of the lonely. Call your church to compassion and service. We pray for the ministry of the chaplains, staff, volunteers at Episcopal City Mission, and the youth in detention; for those affected either through illness or grief by COVID-19; and for those who struggle with addiction. *(Pause)* Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, our God of peace: for you have bid us to make warfare cease and to place your trust in you who bore us up on eagle's wings. Raise up among us peacemakers, and those who work for justice and peace by giving them courage, vision, and strength. We pray for members of our armed forces, especially Kyle serving in Iran, and first responders. *(Pause)* Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, our God of justice: for you desire that all be one. Erase the prejudice and class divisions that plague our nation that together we might share in your vision of harmony. We pray for our elected officials that they may be filled with a desire to embrace truth and righteousness as they exercise their duties of office. *(Pause)* Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, our God of strength: for you do not desire harm, but you favor our health. Give to your people the necessary measures of health, patience, and hope. We pray for Darla, Noel, and Jack; for Roger, Annie, Bill, Paul, Brenda, Sue, and the Broom-Morse family; for Kathy, Linda, and Jeremy. *(Pause)* Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, our God of life and love: we pray to you for those we love but see no longer, especially the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, and the youth in St. Louis whose lives were taken by gun violence. Let light perpetual shine upon them where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. Help us also, to remember that in both life and death we are ever surrounded by your love, *(pause)*; Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

EOW 19

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept, then the Minister and People say

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest gives the Absolution from sin

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 Exchange of Peace

The Celebrant says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We invite you to take a moment and extend the peace of God to the members of your household and then to people in the world that you love and struggle to love.

The Spiritual Communion

When we receive Christ's Body and Blood in corporal Holy Communion, we take into ourselves the Sacrament of Our Lord Jesus in the form of Consecrated Bread and Wine and are reminded of who we really are.

When we engage in spiritual Holy Communion, we are still reminded of who we really are. We are Christ's body and blood to each other and those whom we encounter in our daily lives.

The Celebrant says

I appeal to you, sisters and brothers, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Offertory Hymn

Gracious Spirit, give your servants

WLP 782

All Verses

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,

cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,

peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in your

glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the

show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

The Great Thanksgiving:

Adapted from Eucharistic Prayer A

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

The Lord is present with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant says the Preface for Eastertide

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world, and all that separates us from you. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal S125

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" in G major, 4/4 time. The score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "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." The score consists of six staves of music. The first three staves contain the first line of the hymn, and the last three staves contain the second line. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases marked with slurs and accents.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and told them to take and eat the bread for it is his Body given for all.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and told them to drink for it is his Blood of the New Covenant shed for them and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

He told them to eat the bread and drink the cup for the remembrance of him.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you ourselves, our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice.

Sanctify us by your Holy Spirit to faithfully serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Celebrant says

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.**

A moment of silence is kept

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Celebrant says

Together, let us pray this prayer of thanksgiving.

Almighty God, giver of life and destroyer of death, you have graciously reunited us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ and have hid us with him in you.

Fix that morning star which never sets, the risen light of Christ, in our lives that together we will walk in your presence, serving one another, 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, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant says

Gracious God, send us anywhere you would have us go only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us except the tie that binds us to you. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creating, Redeeming and Sanctifying be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Jesus, I have promised
All Verses

Hymnal 655



1 O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end:
2 O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee,



be thou for ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will;
that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle, if thou art by my side,
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way, if thou wilt be my guide.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874), alt. Music: *Nyland*, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874-1948) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Birthdays

Robbie Lawson June 29

Dana Lawson June 29

Al Nessel July 2

Anniversaries

Chris & Mary Ann Kinder July 3

Kevin & Polly Broom July 4

Birthdays and Anniversaries

If your birthday or anniversary does not get listed in our bulletin it is because we do not know the date. Please send an email to ajewson.stfranch@gmail.com.

Announcements

The Dismissal

The Deacon gives the dismissal

Grace and peace remain with you and keep you in the love of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER LISTS

Our homebound parishioners: Darla, Noel, and Jack

Our parishioners: Roger, Annie, Bill, Paul, Brenda, Sue, and the Broom-Morse family

Weekly Prayer Rota: Paddy & George, Sylvia, and Vernon

Parish & Diocesan related prayer requests:

St. Francis' Discernment Team

Students and staff of Friends of St. Francis' Childcare Center

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For the people and ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and Mark their rector and Jerre their deacon

Companion Diocese of Lui, South Sudan: For Delengwa Parish in the diocese of Lui, South Sudan, & Sylvia their priest

For those committed to our ongoing prayers: Deaconess Anne House interns; those discerning a call to ordained ministry; the ministry of the chaplains, staff, volunteers at Episcopal City Mission, and the youth in detention and their families; patients, families, & communities affected by substance use disorders; those suffering from untreated & undertreated pain and chronic diseases; those who serve in our military, especially Kyle (USMC) deployed to Iran; those who are affected either through illness or bereavement by COVID-19 in our communities, across our nation, & throughout the world

For those who have asked for prayers: Kathy, Linda, and Jeremy; first responders and healthcare professionals who continue to work on the frontlines of this pandemic; medical researchers searching for a cure & treatment for COVID-19

For those who have Died and those who Mourn: the 110 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty in 2020 and for the 8 youth in St. Louis whose lives were lost in 2020 due to gun violence & for their families

Bible Study Questions

Genesis 22:1-14

This story is one of the most upsetting sagas of the Hebrew Bible to many believers.

1. What does it mean to offer the first fruits of our lives to God?
2. Why do you suppose God instructed Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?
3. In this story whose faith is being put to the test?
4. How does this story relate to The Lord's Prayer – *lead us not into temptation?*
5. Read the Psalm 13. What is the connection here?
6. Is there a time in your life when you felt God was absent?

Romans 6:12-23

1. In last Sunday's sermon we heard that sin (idolatry) disguises itself in many ways in our modern culture. If St. Paul were around today what would he say enslaves our society?
2. How does obedience to God play a part in our everyday struggle to avoid sinful behavior?
3. How do you feel about being an obedient slave to God?

Matthew 10:40-42

The Gospel reading today finishes the discourse Jesus gives the disciples as he prepares to send them out (cf. 10:1-39).

1. What are your gifts, and how might you use them to spread the light of Christ?
2. What brings you great joy? How might God use that joy to spread the Gospel?
3. Where are the dark areas in your community that need the light of Christ?

St. Francis is a Two rule Church:

Love God, Love Each Other

Something to Think About

St. Paul writes "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Romans 12:1-8

How healthy are you? Paul reminds us that we need to be stewards of our physical bodies and do our best to keep them holy and acceptable to God. Is your diet healthful? Do you consume alcohol only in moderation? Do you exercise? Get enough sleep? Do you smoke? What can you do to be a better steward of your health?

Brought to you by the Stewardship of Life

Statue of St. Francis

Two large trees on the St. Francis property died last year and were cut down. The stump of the large oak tree on the corner of Howerton and Rockwood Arbor Drive was left at a height of about 12 feet so that we might have the option of a tree stump carving in the future.

The Bishop's Committee voted at the May BC meeting to ask for donations to have the tree stump carved into a likeness of St. Francis of Assisi. The proposal is to leave five feet of the tree as a base for the carving and then carve a seven-foot statue of St. Francis above that.

The estimate that we have received for this work is about \$2600. Currently, parishioners have committed donations of \$1800 for this effort. In order to proceed with this project, donations of an additional \$800 are needed. The tree carver only carves tree stumps between April and September so if we are to have the tree carved this year, we will need to get on his schedule very soon. If you would like to donate to this effort, please send a check made out to St. Francis Episcopal Church and put "tree carving" on the memo line.

Today's Ministers of Worship

Celebrant	The Rev. Alfred Jewson
Deacon	The Ven. Rebecca Barger
Musician	Cheryl Foster
Lectors	Jackie Selle & Kathleen McDonald
Intercessor	Joe O'Reilly
Virtual Honorary Verger	Paul Jokerst

The Schedule for The Week

Sunday, June 28	10:15 am	Spiritual Holy Communion; followed by virtual coffee hour
Monday, June 29	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday, June 30	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday, July 1	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
Thursday, July 2	8:30 am	Morning Prayer
Friday, July 3	8:30 am 10:00 am	Morning Prayer Bible Study via Zoom Contact Kathleen McDonald
Saturday, July 4		Independence Day
Sunday, July 5	10:15 am	Spiritual Holy Communion; followed by virtual coffee hour

Readings for next Sunday, July 5, 2020

The First Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

Psalm 45:11-18

The Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

St. Francis' Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri

The Rev. Alfred Jewson, *Interim Vicar*, ajewson.stfranch@gmail.com 314-560-1375

The Ven. Rebecca Barger, *Deacon*, rsbarger@charter.net 713-515-5676

Cheryl Foster, *Music Director*, stfranch@sbcglobal.net

The Bishop's Committee

Jackie Selle, *Bishop's Warden* Donna Bernert, *Junior Warden*

Class of 2021

Mike Rohan

Barb Sacco

Bob Smith

Class of 2022

Sylvia Ahmad

Donna Bernert

Jackie Selle

Herb Smith

Class of 2023

Mary Ann Kinder

Doris Schaefer

Bill Thompson

Tracey Oswald, *Treasurer*

Caitlin Selle, *Bishop's Committee Clerk*

Convention Delegates

Max Starbuck

Paul Jokerst

Michael Booker, *Alternate*

The Discernment Committee (Vicar's Search)

Paul Jokerst, *Chair*

Michael Booker

Jack Laules

Jerry Smith

Mike Rohan, *BC Liaison*

Suzanne Jones

Barb Sacco

Marsha Smith

Friends of St. Francis Day Care

Kathy Regnier, *Director*, friendsofstfran@gmail.com, 636-333-1870

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofStFrancisChildcare/>