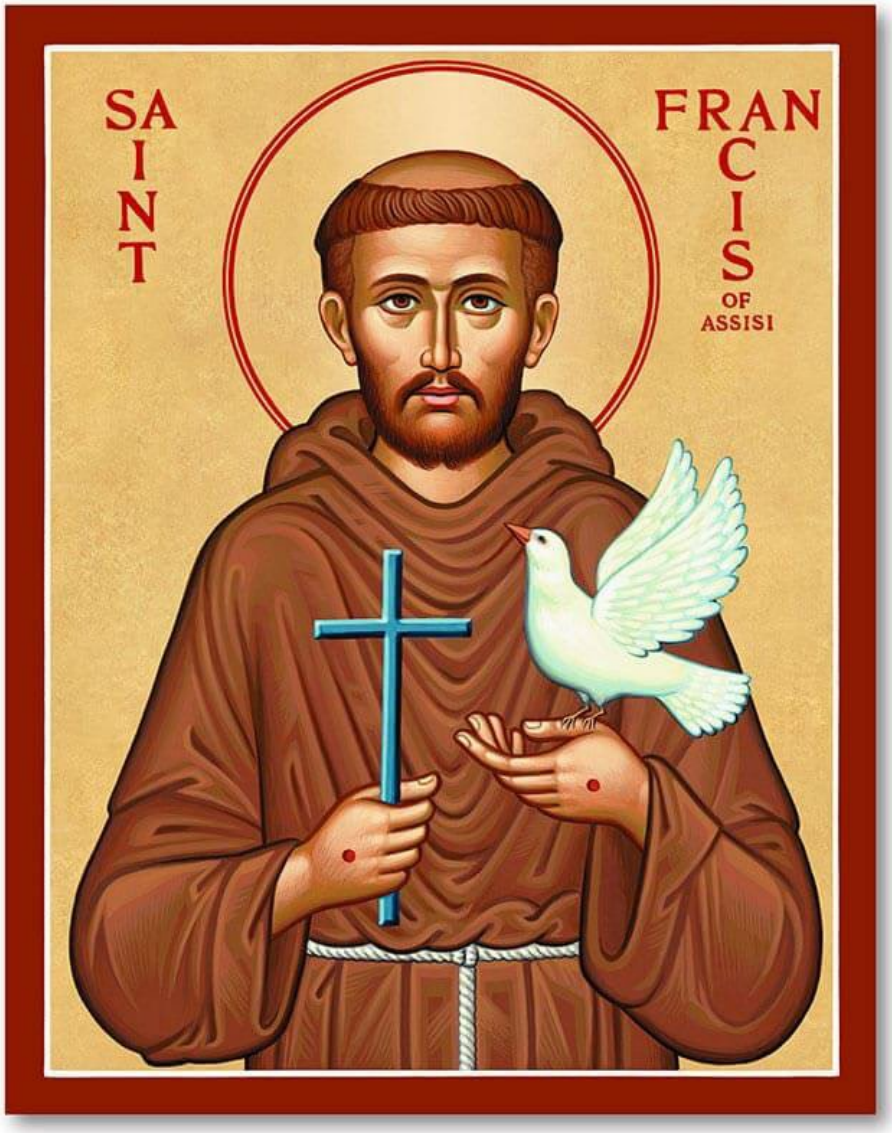
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Canton, Ohio

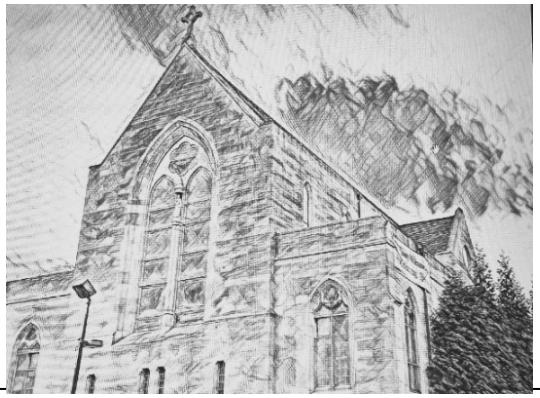


Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
Holy Eucharist
Oct. 4, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286
Week of Oct. 4: Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton



St. Paul's Mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

The mission of The Episcopal Church is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In step with that mission, we follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth.

"Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World."

"God Loves You. No Exceptions."

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-14
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

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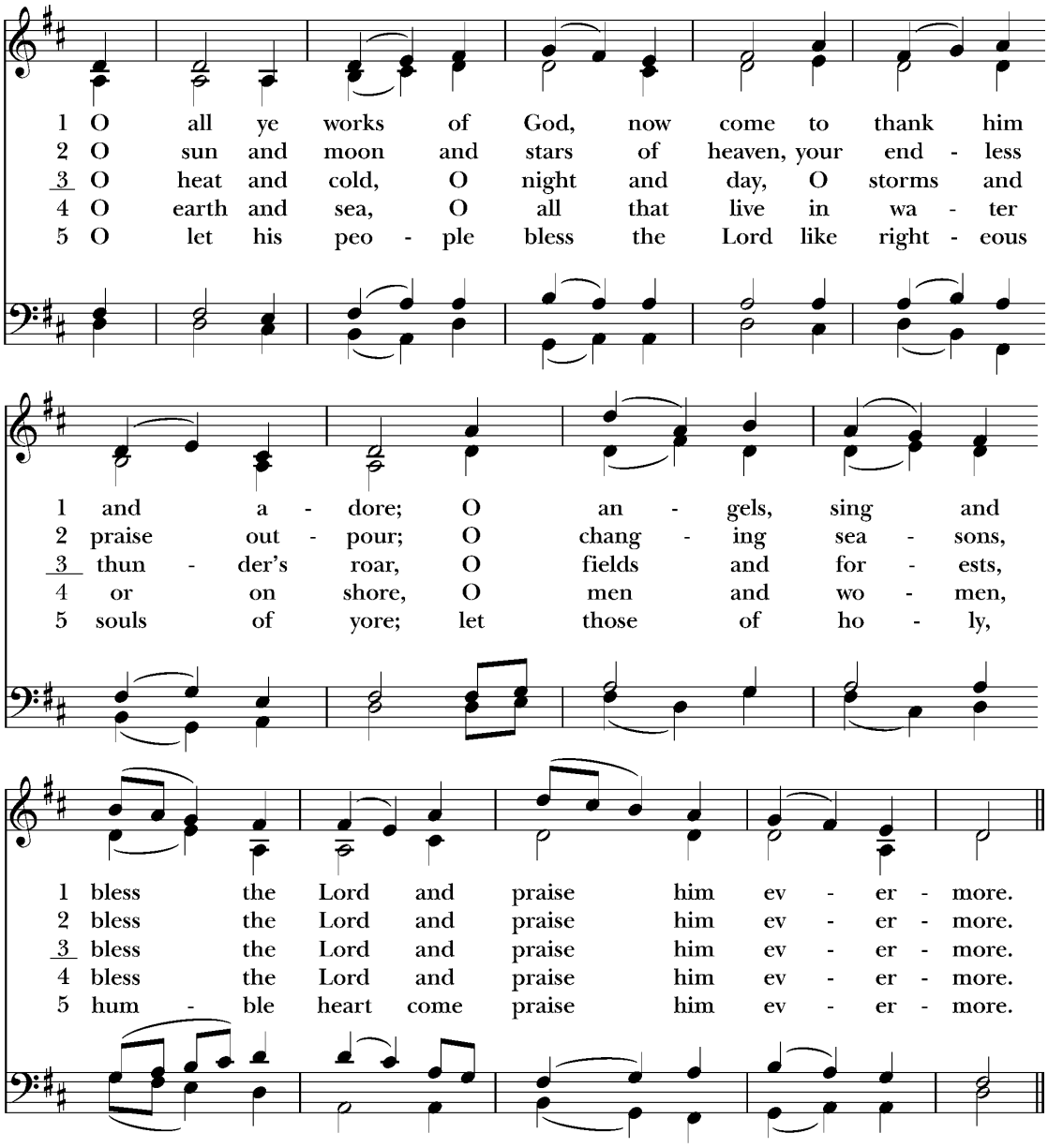
Prelude: *Plainte calme Olivier Messiaen*

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

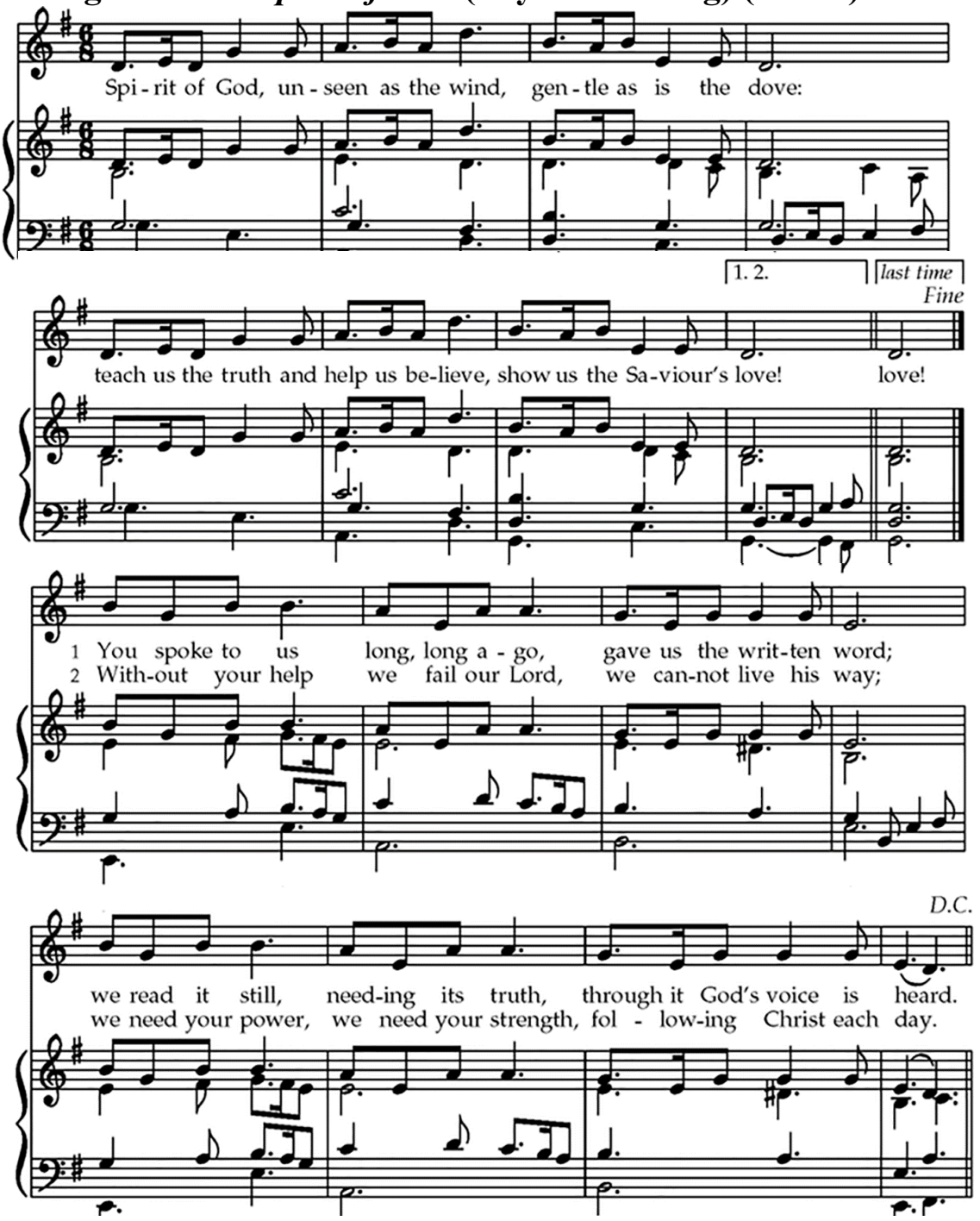
Entrance Hymn: *O All Ye Works of God* (Irish) (H 428)

6 So let us glorify and bless
the God we bow before,
the Father, Holy Spirit, Son,
and praise him evermore.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

Collect for Purity

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.*

Song of Praise *Spirit of God* (Skye Boat Song) (VF 53)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

[1]Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
[2]He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

[3]And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
[4]What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

[5]And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

6I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

7For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:7-14

7Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
8You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.
9You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.
10The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
11You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.
12Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
13The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
14Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.
4bIf anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to

righteousness under the law, blameless.

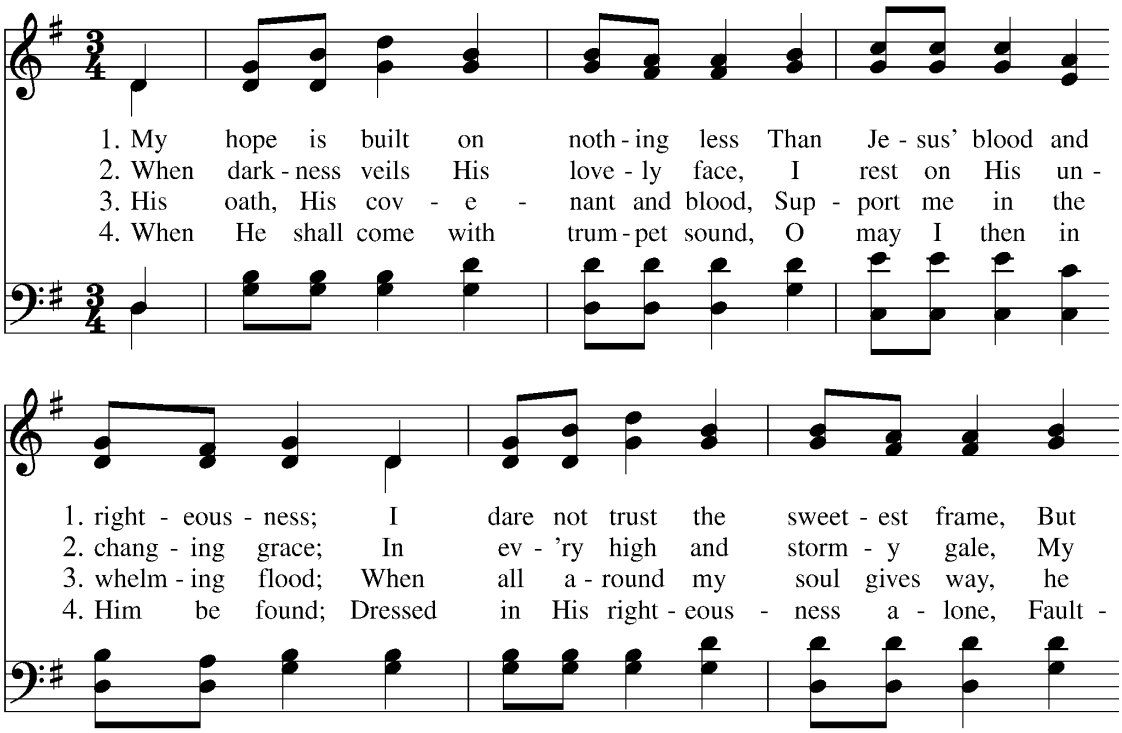
[7]Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. [8]More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9]and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. [10]I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, [11]if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

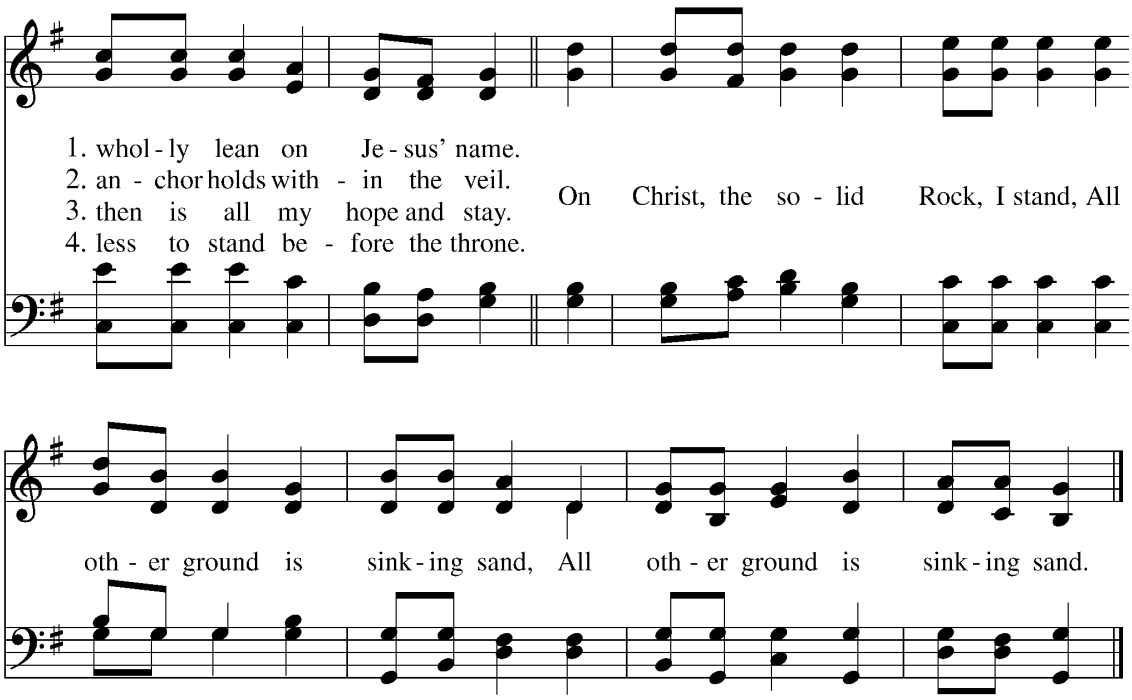
[12]Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. [13]Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14]I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *On Christ the Solid Rock* (LEVAS 99)





GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-46

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

33"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence
around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and
went to another country. 34When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the
tenants to collect his produce. 35But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed
another, and stoned another. 36Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they
treated them in the same way. 37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect
my son.' 38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir;
come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' 39So they seized him, threw him out of the
vineyard, and killed him. 40Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do
to those tenants?" 41They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death,
and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest
time."

42Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?
43Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a
people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 44The one who falls on this stone will be

broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."
45When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was
speaking about them. 46They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because
they regarded him as a prophet.
Celebrant The Gospel of Christ
People Glory to you, O Christ

The Sermon: The Rev. Joe Ashby

Please stand in body or spirit

The Creed

Please stand if able

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
Please remain standing

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us and for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;
We thank you, Lord.

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of all people; we pray that you comfort and heal all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially Joshua, Elizabeth Mapp, Judy Johanning, Tom Lilly, Dr. Claire Pernsteiner, Johanna Middleton, Linda Fogle, Cara Warren, Andrea, Jackson, Gary, Yvonne Niesz, Bernie Schwitzgebel, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek and Ronnie Long, and others we name silently or aloud; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.
We thank you, Lord.

For the lives we shared with those who have departed, especially Jim Chalfant.
We thank you, Lord.

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;
We thank you, Lord.

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;
We thank you, Lord.

For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets
We thank you, Lord.
That each pet here may be treasured with care; We pray to you, Lord.
That we may love and honor all your works, O God;
We pray to you, Lord.

That we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;
To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever, we pray to you, Lord. Amen.

Please pray the St. Paul's Discernment Prayer together:
O Lord our God,
May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you.
We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you.
We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership.
And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: 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.

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*.

Everyone is invited to bring their pet forward for a blessing or to remain in the pew for us to come to you.
May you be blessed in the name of God, the Creator, Redeemer and of the Sustainer. May you and your animals enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you. Amen.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (Psalm 50:14)

The Celebrant says
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

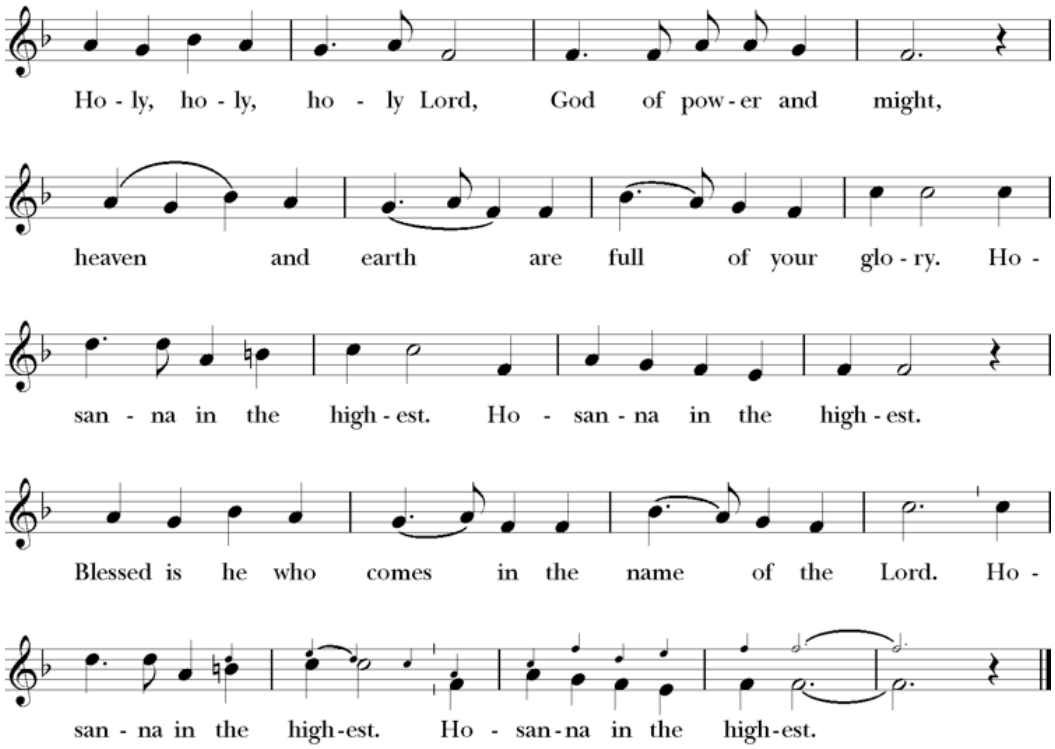
OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Jesus Shall Reign* (Rachel Aarons)

The Great Thanksgiving

.*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.
For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
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:
♪♪♪

SANCTUS: *"Holy, Holy, Holy"* (S125)



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." ♪

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
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 Paul 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.***

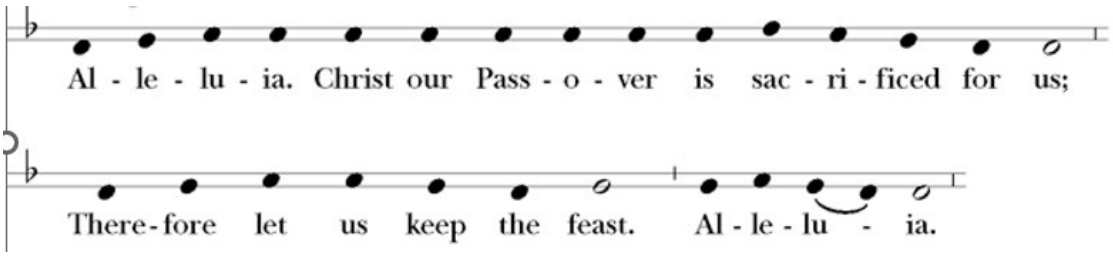
The Lord's Prayer

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,

forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: *Christ our Passover* (S152)



Spiritual Communion

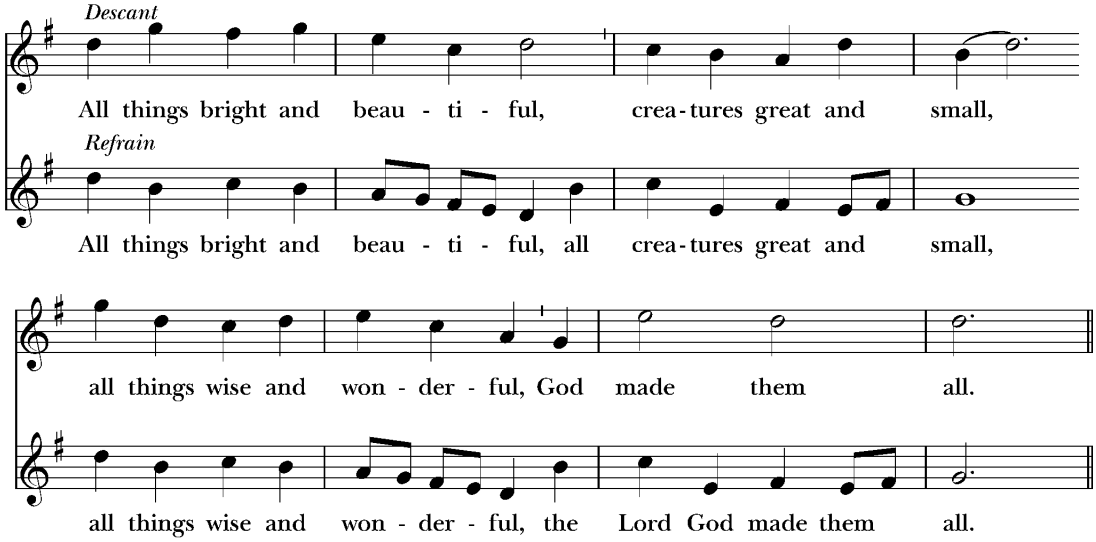
Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

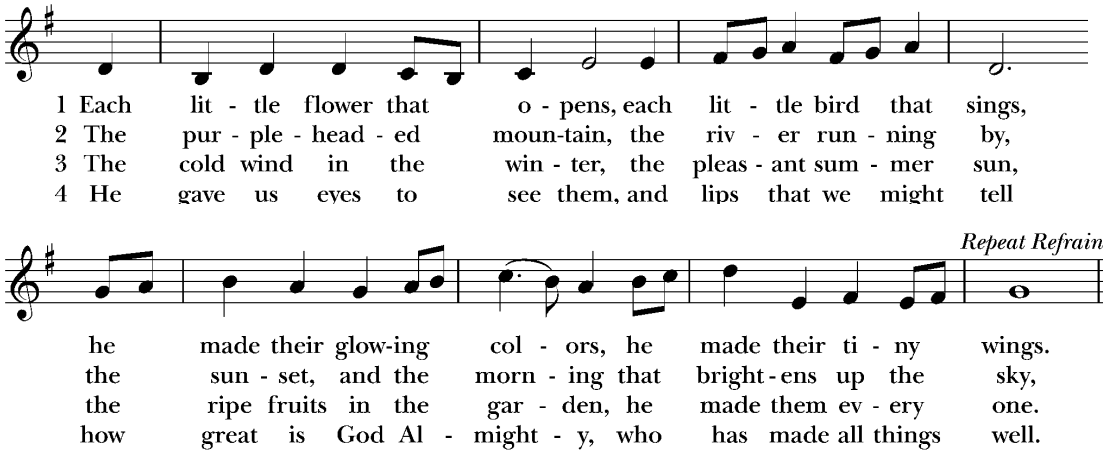
Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*********All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.********

COMMUNION HYMN: *All things bright and beautiful* (H 405)





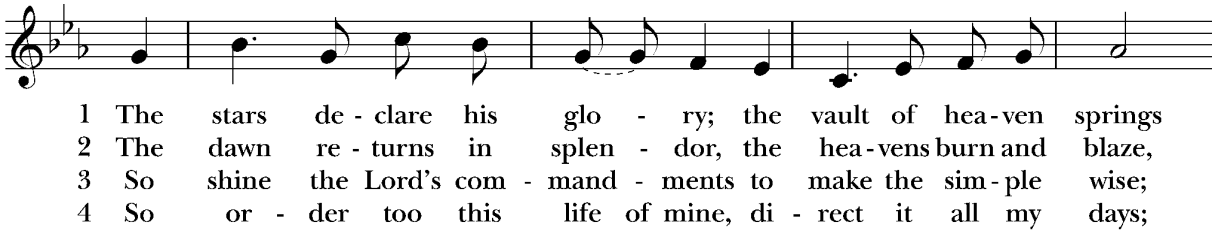
Post-Communion Prayer

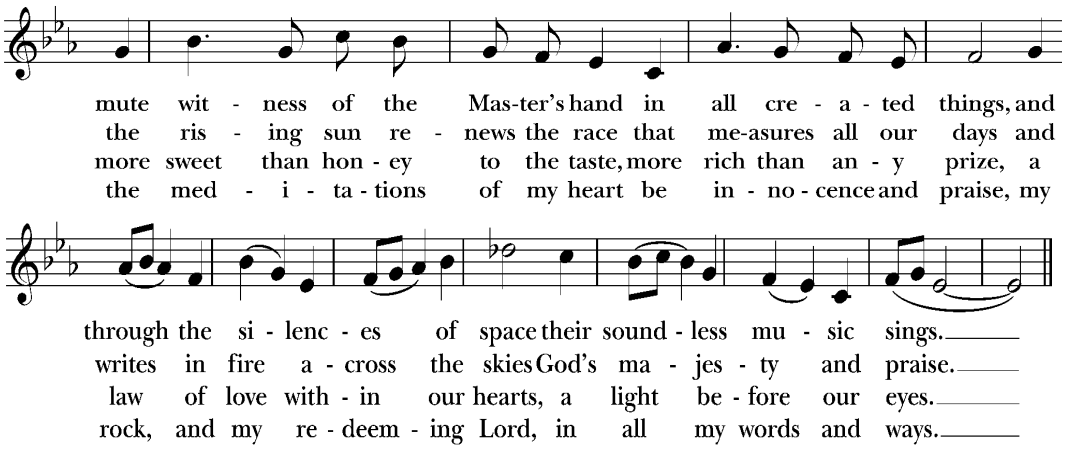
Let us pray.
Celebrant and People
Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn: *The Stars Declare His Glory* (Aldine) (H431)

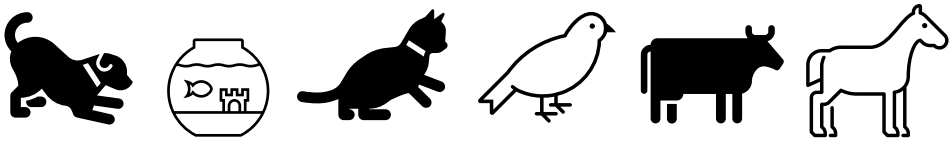




Dismissal

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

Postlude: *Written on the Sky (*Max Richter)



TODAY'S SERVERS:
Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Demi Carrothers
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Shirley Brown and Barb Anderson
Lector: Valerie Frear
Counters: Valerie Frear and David Rotthoff

The altar flowers today are given in loving memory of Max G. and Mary Alyce Brokaw by Rick and Barb Anderson.

Announcements

October Birthdays
Tommie Clark, 9/30 Holly Hillen, 10/1

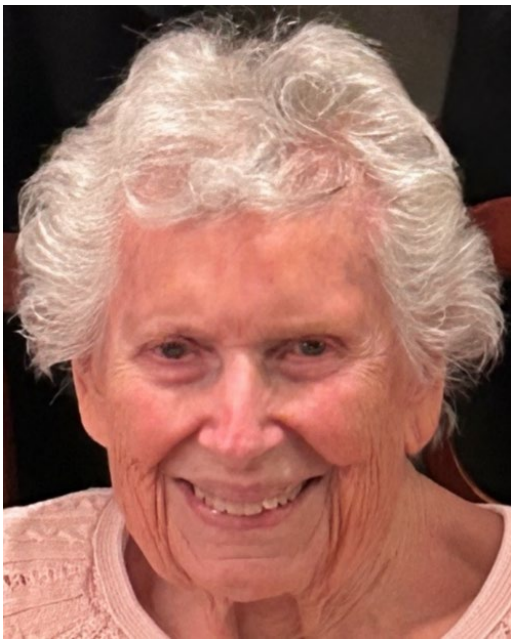
Dorothy Oloya, 10/1
Richard Anderson, 10/2
Mark Heitger, 10/2
In memoriam Jared Marcum, 10/3
Victor Sutek, 10/14
Shirley Brown, 10/14
Donald Stauffer, 10/18
Rebecca Geissinger, 10/19
Nicole Marcum, 10/19
Michael Lewton, 10/20
Rebecca Patterson, 10/20
Jeffrey Nowlin, 10/22
Samuel Wade, 10/25

October Anniversaries
Victoria and Kraig Suba Roshong, 10/13
Linda and Mark Heitger, 10/24
Barb and Richard Anderson, 10/27

Join us as St. Paul's celebrates the life of Marilyn Jean Dickinson

St. Paul's was blessed for many years to have Marilyn Dickinson a leader and member of our family, and we will be celebrating her life on Nov. 7.

Marilyn passed peacefully on Sept. 13 at age 98.



Born June 9, 1928, in Youngstown, Marilyn was the daughter of Rankin and Emma (Ryan) Pounders. She met her husband, Harold Merton ("Dick") Dickinson, while working a summer season at the Chautauqua Institute in upstate N.Y., and they married in Youngstown in 1949. Marilyn affectionately became Dick's "Dutch."

Together they traveled from Cincinnati to Morgantown, W.Va., to Ashtabula to Canton and finally to Greenwood, S.C. in 1974. After Harold's passing in 2003, Marilyn made her final journey back to family in Canton in 2009. They raised their four children along the way, and the family grew.

During her 35 years in Greenwood, Marilyn devoted herself wholeheartedly to serving others, including 18 years as executive director of the United Way of Greenwood County (South Carolina). Her generous spirit also shone through in her dedicated service to her church, community, and numerous volunteer organizations.

Above all, Marilyn treasured her family. She also had a deep appreciation for music, art, gardening, nature, and wildlife. She especially loved birds and the beach and found great joy in the beauty of the natural world.

Marilyn is survived by her four children, Debra Dickinson, Jeff Dickinson, Joanne (Dickinson) Marino, and Tracy Scott Dickinson; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; as well as nieces, nephews, extended family members, and many dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Harold; and her sister, Delores Dickinson. Marilyn and Delores married brothers Harold and Rolland Dickinson, creating a special bond among the four filled with fun, laughter, and adventure.

A memorial service celebrating Marilyn's life will be held on November 7 at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Friends may visit with the family one hour prior, and a reception will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Marilyn's memory to St. Paul's or to the United Way of the Lakelands (previously known as United Way of Greenwood County), 929 Phoenix St, Greenwood, SC 29646 at www.uwlakelands.org.

Marilyn will be remembered for her devotion to family, her lifelong service to others, and the kindness and compassion she shared so freely throughout her long and meaningful life.

Summary of Vestry meeting of Sept. 28, 2026

The St. Paul's Vestry meets on the fourth Monday of each month, and we'll be including a summary of each Vestry meeting in the following week's bulletin. Here's the wrap-up for September.

Our people: Due to health issues, Music Director Edward Grimes will be taking a leave of absence. He is planning the music now and working with choir members to continue rehearsals and music at Sunday services. Please keep him in your prayers!

Our sexton, Joe Patterson, is recovering from several hospitalizations (thank you for your prayers!). If you see issues in the building that may need our attention, please let Junior Warden Linda Heitger know.

Our building: Linda Heitger reported on a number of physical-plant needs, no small part of which have to do with water including a leak over the kitchen ceiling, water occasionally overflowing in the men's room beside the Narthex, and a clog in the sacristy sink. She's meeting this week with contractors to see what repairs entail.

Good news: We've discovered that the Guild Hall is outfitted with a sound system that we haven't been using for years largely because of problems with the wireless microphone and questions about how to hook up to current technology. The best news is that the estimate to make the system fully viable has dropped from a feared $10,000-plus to a little over $1,200, an expense that will be shared with CCORR.

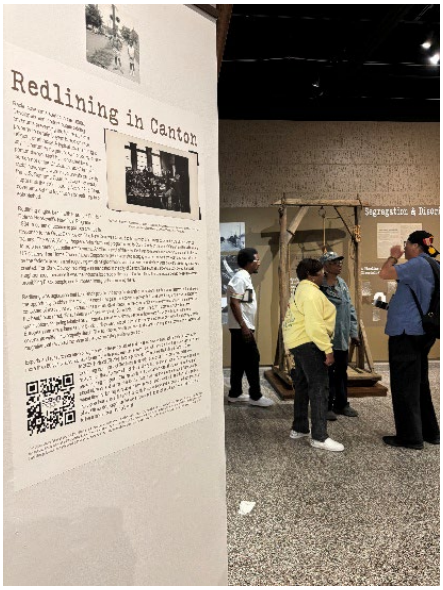
Our future: The Discernment Committee has been meeting regularly with our consultant, the Rev. Alan Cowart, and has met with the Diocesan Canon for Innovation, the Rev. Audra Abt. The committee has created a statement of purpose for St. Paul's, which will be shared with the entire congregation during the service of Oct. 18, with a Q&A to follow in the Guild Hall after service. Please plan to be there and bring your thoughts, prayers and questions.

Our place in the Diocese: Our delegates to the annual Diocese of Ohio convention on Nov. 20-21 in Huron will be Cara Warren, Carol Sutek and Linda Heitger, with Douglas Colmery, David Lewis and Kelli Green as alternates. The church will pay for overnight accommodations at the Comfort Inn.
Our finances: Our operating expenses through July of $148,876.11 are running slightly lower than anticipated, while income is slightly ahead. (Thank you all!) We had $690,230.75 in our main investment account, $24,695.51 (supporting the Columbarium) and $30,877.74 in our restricted account. We are invested conservatively but note that the balances can fluctuate with the market and that we do draw down from those investment accounts for capital and other expenses.

Important dates to remember

Your chance to vote in November rests with you being registered, and the deadline for that is tomorrow (Monday, Oct. 5) at 9 p.m. at the Stark County Board of Elections. Early in-person and mail-in voting begins Tuesday, Oct. 6.
Thanksgiving Baskets registration begins in less than two weeks and two of the busiest sites are at St. Paul's – **Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and **Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 6-8 p.m.** Please volunteer by signing the sheet in the Narthex today!
Sunday, Oct. 18 will be a very important and different service. The service will be Liturgy of the Word. The message during the service will be devoted to the work of the Discernment Committee and future of St. Paul's, and a Q&A (with a light lunch) will follow in the Guild Hall. Please plan to be there!

Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Stark County's history

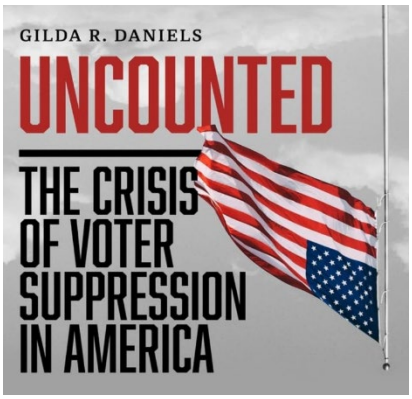


Participants with Courageous Conversations on Race Relations have the unique opportunity for a private guided tour of the Stark County Black History Museum **the evening of Oct. 20.** The tour will be led by Dr. Tameka Ellington, the curator of the expanded section of the McKinley Museum and Presidential Library.
The permanent wing of the museum is scheduled to open in February, but a special multi-room display launched in June. It features historical looks at African-American individuals and communities, their contributions and challenges. Highlights include photos from the historically black village of Aultman -- with its distinct round homes – and artifacts from the once thriving Black business district along Cherry Avenue SE. It

also profiles leaders in business, education, the arts, justice, government and all other aspects of Stark County life.

"We want the community to know that you don't have to become President or look like the people in the oil paintings to do legendary things worthy of veneration and admiration!" reads a summary of the museum's guiding principles.

"By bringing to light these pieces of history that have too long been in the shadows, we can inspire young people to make their own mark on history.



We are only able to more forward when we know the full story of all the people who have created the community we call home."

The following Tuesday evening, Oct. 27, the Social Justice Book Club will be discussing "Uncounted: The Crisis of Voter Suppression in America." We'll be meeting in the CCORR room beginning at 6:30 pm.

You make a difference with the Discretionary Fund

Please note that the loose plate offering for today – and for the first Sunday of each month – goes to the parish discretionary fund to help our church and our neighbors with unexpected expenses. In the past month, your donations have helped us deliver baby formula, teething rings, diapers and fresh food to families. They've also helped us buy bus passes, grocery gift cards and shoes, and to help people meet emergency housing and utility expenses. Thank you for all your support!

Episcopal Community Services 2027 Awards

A $5,000 award from Episcopal Community Services last year helped Courageous Conversations in Race Relations grow, collaborate and make a greater difference in Canton in 2026. Grant applications are now being received for 2027 awards and we're applying. The Episcopal Community Services builds Episcopal identity, collaboration and community in northern Ohio. Further information is available on the diocesan website. https://www.dohio.org/ministries/episcopal-community-services/overview. Applications are due by **Oct. 7**.