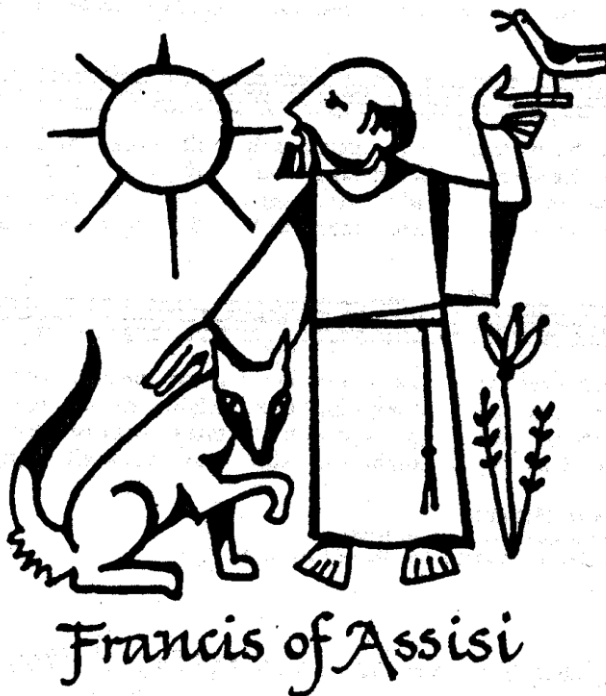




The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

The Blessing of the Animals

September 25, 2022 ~ 10:45 a.m.



The Rev. April Berends, Rector
Caroline Day, Seminarian
Christopher McAbee, Seminarian

+ Season of Creation +

GATHERING

* = Rise as you are able, in body or in spirit | ✠ = a customary time to “cross” oneself

* GATHERING SONG

Come all you people

Uyai Moses

The song leaders sing the first verse, all join in repeating the first stanza.

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come now and worship the Lord.

Come all you creatures, come and praise your Maker;
Come all you creatures, come and praise your Maker;
Come all you creatures, come and praise your Maker;
Come now and worship the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

All creation declares the glory of God:

O Come, let us worship. Alleluia!

WORD

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Living God, who called into being the birds of the air, the fish of the sea and every living creature that moves on the earth, we give you thanks for the brightness and beauty of your creation. Protect the animals of sky, earth and sea, and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may care for all that you have made with wisdom and reverence. Help us to shape the pattern of our days so that all your creatures may share in the fruits of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1. 20-25

Reader

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, and God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: SONG OF CREATION *(read responsively by whole verse)*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord,
Sing praise and give honor for ever.

**In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord,
Sing praise and give honor for ever.**

Let the earth glorify the Lord,
Sing praise and give honor for ever.

**Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,
Sing praise and give honor for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,
Sing praise and give honor for ever.

**Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,
and all you flocks and herds.
O children of God, glorify the Lord,
Sing praise and give honor for ever.**

* THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-33

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

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

SERMON

Caroline Day, Seminarian

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

HYMN

All things bright and beautiful

*Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. (Refrain)*

*The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. (Refrain)*

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. (Refrain)*

*He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. (Refrain)*

The ministers will move throughout the congregation offering blessings to the animals present.

Celebrant Let us pray. Gracious God, your servant Francis, who called each creature of the air, sea and land brother or sister, reminds us of your great love for all creation. Grant that every creature gathered here today, both large and small, may live lives of praise as you intend. Grant also that we may love your creation and regard it as sacred, for you have called it good. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*** PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Intercessor Holy God, Creator of both heaven and earth, you have spread your abundance throughout the ends of the earth.
We lift our prayers to you, O God.

People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor We pray for Joseph our President, the leaders of the nations, and all who make decisions as the peoples of the earth clamor for resources. Inspire us to do justice, preparing the way for your glorious reign.
We lift our prayers to you, O God;

People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor Send your Spirit to disturb and challenge us, that we may share the abundance of the fruits of the earth. Open our ears to the needs of those who are poor, hungry and neglected throughout the world, that we may hear their cries for daily bread and freely share what you have given.

We lift our prayers to you, O God;
People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ, the loss of all the beauty that is being killed, and give us the will to protect species in danger of extinction. May we embrace your charge to watch over and care for all the creatures of the earth.
We lift our prayers to you, O God.

People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor Give us eyes to see your image in our neighbors, and help us to respond to their needs with grace and compassion. We pray for all who live in poverty, sickness, loneliness and grief, that you will wipe the tears from their faces.

We lift our prayers to you, O God;
People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor We remember before you those who are dying and those who have died.
Give us strength in your victory over death to grow into your way of love,
which does not know despair but sows seeds of hope.

(The congregation is invited to name others, aloud or silently.)

People We lift our prayers to you, O God;
You are the hope of all creation.

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow
love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there
is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to
love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY HYMN

God, you spin the whirling planets

*Jane Huber
Tune: Holy Manna*

God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.

We, created in your image, would a true reflection be
Of Your justice, grace, and mercy and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.

We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.

When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.

Healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.

God, your word is still creating, calling us to life made new.

Now reveal to us the places where there's work to dare and do.

Fill our hearts with love and vision, that we may extend your care.

Thus, new creatures in Your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

TABLE

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All By Christ's blood, we are reconciled.

By Christ's wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

The Celebrant continues

And so, Almighty God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**All We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, as we await
the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our holy and righteous fore-bearers; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Today we will receive communion in both kinds (bread and wine). To receive communion, come forward towards the communion ministers. Stretch out your hands, and the priest or Eucharistic ministers will dip the wafer into the wine and place it in your hands. If you would prefer the bread alone, please tell the minister.

Gluten free wafers are available; let the priest know if you need one. If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand, and we will bring communion to you.

SENDING

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

*** FRANCISCAN BLESSING**

May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers, half-truths,
And superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression,
And exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain,
Rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand
To comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness
To all God's children and the poor.

* HYMN

God is love; let heaven adore him

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

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* THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Celebrant	The Rev. April Berends
Preacher	Caroline Day, Seminarian
Musician	Karla Fowkes
Lector	Skeeter Makepeace
Intercessor	Celeste Humphrey
Crucifer	Jeff Bertrand
Lead Usher	Dick McGee

Light the Way Campaign

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path. —Psalm 119:105

We are in the process of replacing the lighting fixtures in the Nave that illuminate the chancel, altar and choir, including the pulpit and lectern areas. Many of the current fixtures in the nave are 700 watt incandescent lights. They use a lot of electricity, generate a lot of heat, and cannot be angled correctly, as the mechanical parts of the fixtures are failing. That makes it difficult to see, and also means that our choir, acolytes and clergy are often uncomfortably warm under all those robes.

Right now, many of the lights in this region of the Nave are incandescent, and run very hot, even as it still feels rather dim up in the choir and around the altar.

The new lights would be LED, using less energy while emitting high quality, natural-looking light. In addition to being more efficient, the new lights will run cooler, lowering air-conditioning costs and providing a more comfortable environment for the choir and others leading worship. Increased light output would also improve visibility and safety as worshipers approach the altar.

We are hoping that a number of members of our community will help us raise the funds to light the way to Christ's table at Grace for years to come. The total cost for this project is \$10,000, which includes the fixtures and installation. We already have four fixtures committed, and we are looking to raise an additional \$6,000 from donors. If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact Jeff Workman, Junior Warden at j_workman79@yahoo.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quarterly statements are coming up in October; since these are now sent out entirely by e-mail, **please take steps to make sure the Parish Administrator's office has your correct address.** Please contact Paula Garner at pgarner@saygrace.net if you've changed your e-mail at any point in recent history or if there's any chance the church is not in possession of the correct one. Your accountant will thank you!

Thanks to research and exploration by Jim Milburn, **Grace is looking at ways to assist our scholastic neighbor Barger Academy throughout the academic year.** There are many ways to provide support: slots are available to help in classrooms, tutor after school, talk to kids about careers, help out in the Reindeer Store, provide treats for teachers to use as positive reinforcements, and reading with or to students.

If you are interested in any of these possibilities or have questions, contact Jim Milburn jmilburn@epbfi.com or (423-593-6809).

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Sunday, October 2nd -- One service at 10am. All are welcome to join in the Chattanooga Pride Parade at 11:30am downtown.

Saturday, October 8th -- Pride Mass at Grace at 6pm

If you are willing to help with Grace's presence at Chattanooga Pride on October 2nd, or help with worship or hospitality for PrideMass on October 8th, please contact Rev. April at aberends@saygrace.net.

Spirits in the Garden Returns! The Gardens and Grounds folks are working to add back one of your favorite fundraisers -- Spirits in the Garden -- but we need your help to make it happen! Spirits has been tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, October 29 from 6-9pm** on our Grace Grounds. **Prices will be \$30 a person or \$50 a family.** All proceeds go towards the care of our Grounds and Arboretum. This night of fright and fun will include a chili cookoff, hotdogs, snacks, s'mores, spooky stories, costume contest, adult beverages, games, and more!

Here's what we need in the arena of personnel: greeters/ money collectors (1-2); a team to judge costumes (2-3); set-up crew (all the help we can get!); break-down crew (all the help we can get!); bartender crew (2); volunteers for games/ crafts with kids (3-4); spooky-tale reader (1-2); chili taste team (5); s'mores station (2); hot dog station (2).

We are also looking for food donations: hot dogs/ buns/ condiments; s'mores ingredients; various side dishes; red and white wine.

Spirits is a FUN family event that supports our beautiful grounds and arboretum; however, it is a team effort to make it happen! **Please contact Brittany Williamson (865) 202-0481. brittwilli90@gmail.com if you can volunteer in any capacity!**

Ministry Interest Survey -- Three Sundays ago, we kicked off a new program year at Grace. If you haven't taken the opportunity to do so, please take a moment to fill out the Ministry Interest survey before you head out today. Are there areas of our life together at Grace that you would like to explore? Things you would like to learn? Gifts you would like to offer? Do you have ideas for new ways to serve the wider community? You can find surveys on the table in the Narthex. Please place completed surveys in the envelop on the table. We'll have ministry leaders from the areas that interest you contact you to help you connect with the various groups at Grace doing good things in God's world.

Use P.O. Box for Checks/Important Documents -- P.O. Box 80954, Chattanooga, TN 37414.

Grace has moved to BREEZE for directory and donation services; this site can be accessed via the webpage. Find the menu item "BREEZE DIRECTORY" among the menu options that sprawl across the screen near the top, click and log in; user name is 'saygrace' and the password is 'Chattanooga.'

Material for Sunday's bulletins should be sent to the office **no later than noon on Wednesdays.**

Donations to Grace may be made through the text-number and QR code below:

(423) 455-5001



Prayer List

Jean, James, Christopher, Roland, Anne, Diana, Valorie, Dexter, Barbara, Darlene, Angela, Helen, Brad, Daniel, Joe, Karen, Tom, Glyn, Hannah, David, Wilma, Patricia, Martha, Sue, William, Neil, Ash, Bill, Andrea, Amy, Deborah, Rebecca, Libby, Jean, and Ann;

for Natosha and Megan, who are with child;

for Wil, Jake, Kevin, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan,
and all who serve in the Armed Forces, here and abroad;

for the families, students and teachers and staff at Barger Elementary School;

we pray for those who have died, especially Barbara Dooley, mother of Gail Dooley, who died last Sunday.

Mission of Grace Episcopal Church

To provide a reverent place for Christian worship, learning, and service in the Anglican tradition, with special emphasis on the healing, nurturing, and challenging character of the Holy Spirit, open to and respecting all who would come.

Grace Episcopal Church ☩ 20 Belvoir Avenue
423-698-2433 ☩ www.saygrace.net