



The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
The Blessing of the Animals
October 10, 2021 ~ 10:45 a.m.



The Rev. April Berends, Rector ~ The Rev. David Burman, Associate Rector
Sarah Hess, Seminarian ~ Caroline Day, Seminarian

+ Season of Creation +

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Siciliano

J. S. Bach

* THE ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

All creatures of our God and King, stanzas 1-4, 7



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
*6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

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THE FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 47:6–12

Reader A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

He said to me, ‘Mortal, have you seen this?’ Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on

the other. He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglam; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

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

PSALM 33:3–9, 13–15 (*Read responsively*)

3 Sing for him a new song;
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

**4 For the word of the Lord is right,
and all his works are sure.**

5 He loves righteousness and justice;
the loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole earth.

**6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made,
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.**

7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin
and stores up the depths of the sea.

**8 Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.**

9 For he spoke, and it came to pass;
he commanded, and it stood fast.

**13 The Lord looks down from heaven,
and beholds all the people in the world.**

14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze
on all who dwell on the earth.

**15 He fashions all the hearts of them
and understands all their works.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:18–23

Reader A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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

*** THE GOSPEL** Mark 16:14–15

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

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

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

SERMON

The Rev. April Berends

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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.**

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

*** 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.

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.)

 We lift our prayers to you, O God;
People **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

In the bulb there is a flower



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -



tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter -
dy; there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing
ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our



flies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of
hope to you and me. From the past will come the
life, e - ter - ni - ty; in our death, a res - ur -



win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
fu - ture, what it holds, a mys - ter - y, un - re -
rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

TABLE

* 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 our thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

(from Enriching Our Worship)

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

SANCTUS

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)

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

All: **Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.**

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

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

This morning, we will receive communion in one kind only (bread). To receive communion, move forward toward the priest. Stretch out your hands, and the priest will drop the wafer into your hands. Please wait to remove your mask and consume your wafer until you have returned to your seat.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

SENDING

* POSTCOMMUNION 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. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. April Berends
Musician	Karla Fowkes

Flowers today are given by Katherine Milburn to the glory of God and in memory of James Earl Milburn, Sr., Joseph Leslie Milburn, Laura Lee Milburn, and David M. Milburn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scripture Discussion Group @ 9:30am each Sunday in the courtyard –This group is resuming after a long hiatus! We meet in the courtyard at 9:30am on Sundays as we look through the readings assigned for that Sunday. Scripture is a wacky and beautiful tapestry -- join us as we discuss diverse parts of it! All are welcome! And if you've got kids, feel free to drop them off at the Pavilion, where Betsy Hawthorne Bedwell will have activities for them.

The Past is Present – This group meets at 9:30am on Sundays, and we're talking about different important moments in church history, and how those moments affect our own spiritual lives and our church today. This is aimed especially at newcomers to Grace, but anybody is welcome, whether you've been already or not!

We meet in the backyard belonging to Grace member Pat Milburn (thanks Pat!), who lives very close to the church. Please park in the Grace Church upper lot near the intersection of Belvoir Avenue and Sunbeam Avenue -- from there it's just a 1-2 minute walk to Pat's house, and you'll see us when you get to the end of the driveway. If walking is a hardship, or if you're unsure how to get to Pat's house, contact David Burman at dburman@saygrace.net -- we can probably get a car or two in Pat's driveway.

If you've got kids who are not going to be keen on attending an adult class, you can drop them off in the pavilion, where Betsy Hawthorne Bedwell, our new children's minister, will have some activities!

Next Sunday (October 17), David our assistant priest will lead the class, discussing how the Episcopal Church's understanding of baptism has shifted in the last 50 years!.

Youth Event Tonight! For the second time, Grace Church is partnering with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hixson to put on a youth event. We'll meet at Grace Church this evening from 5pm to 7pm, with dinner provided! We'll do a couple of activities related to peer ministry, or how we can minister to each other in our daily lives. Teenagers welcome!

The Grace Online Directory has migrated to a service called Breeze but can still be accessed via the webpage. Find the menu item "BREEZE" at the right end of the menu options that sprawl across the screen near the top, click and log in; user name is 'saygrace' and the password is 'Chattanooga'. Get in touch with Jim Milburn with any questions and suggestions.

If you'd like to give Altar Flowers during the rest of this year, please contact the office (423) [243-3257](tel:243-3257)/dcarden@saygrace.net to sign up for a Sunday. Cost is \$77, and all donors need do is provide a dedication and the previously mentioned sum. Because it's been so long since we've had flower donors and so many circumstances have changed, we are deleting all standing orders (unless you've been in touch with the office about them already) and beginning from scratch. If you want to establish a standing order, please contact the office.

Prayer Lists

Please pray this week for Wilma, Bill, Patricia, Tony, Susan, Russell, Amanda, Jamie, Martha, Sue, William, Neil, Ash, Bill, Sally, Mary Lou, Andrea, Jennifer, June, Amy, Deborah, Ann, the Hale family, Niysah, Terrie, Alex, Andrea, Steve, Angela, Dwight, Doris, Rebecca, J.R., Charlotte, Libby, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, and Ann;

for Bren who is deployed as a nurse in the pandemic;

for Emily, Mary, and Katie, who are with child;

We give thanks for the births of Margaret Latimore Bishop and George Bosang Bishop, children of David Bishop and MerryMadeline Bishop, sister of Betsy Hawthorne, who were born last week.

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

Those in need of continued prayer:

Valorie Lephart, Jeanette Cureton, Wanda Kirkpatrick, Emma Andrews, Jim Strickland, Michael Conner, Bo and Mary Minor Brown, Helen Williams, Peggy Fugate, William Simpson, Timothy Penny, Donald Jones, Cooper Jones, Charles Smith, John Woodham, Elaine Harrison, Marcia Magers, Major McCollough, John Cox, Gayanne Silver, Heather Nelson, Robert Clark, Dexter and Helen Williams, Cheryl McCurry, Ethel Rutledge, Lanie Lundgrin, Terri Harvey, Anne Getz, Michael Roberts, Jeannie and Andy Williams, Jaime Cooper, Teresa Noel, Tina Knowles, Joyce and Greg Snyder, Martha Killeffer, Robert Durham, Jessica Ricketts

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.

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