



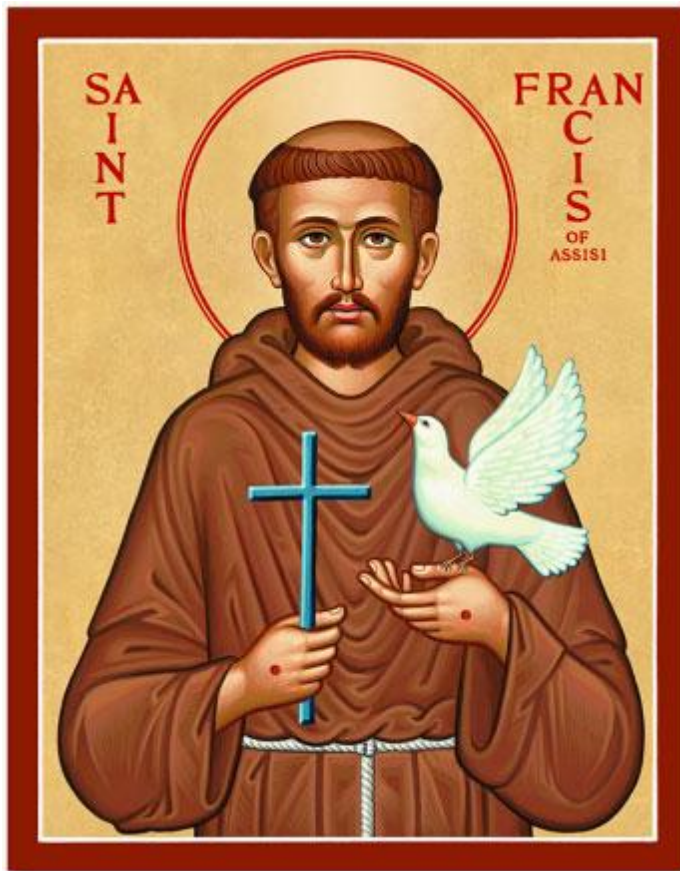
**ST. FRANCIS**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
& DAY SCHOOL

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS  
OCTOBER 5, 2025

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THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

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*Welcome to St. Francis Episcopal Church.  
You are invited to participate throughout the service.  
May God bless you this and every day.*

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

*Please stand, sung by all.*

### OPENING HYMN:

*All creatures of our God and King*

Hymnal 400 (VERSES 1, 4, 5, 7)



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voic-es, let us  
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  
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  
4 way, O— praise him, Al-le-lu-ia! All flowers and  
5 part, O— sing now: Al-le-lu-ia! All you that  
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,  
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:  
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.*

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Copyright ©1985 by G. Schirmer, used by arrangement of G. Schirmer, Inc.  
Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*Please remain standing.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

BCP p355

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**Celebrant:** 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.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Hymnal S278



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE FIRST READING

Job 39:1–18

### A reading from the Book of Job:

"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?  
Do you observe the calving of the deer?

Can you number the months that they fulfil,  
and do you know the time when they give birth,  
when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,  
and are delivered of their young?

Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;  
they go forth, and do not return to them.

"Who has let the wild ass go free?  
Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,  
to which I have given the steppe for its home,  
the salt land for its dwelling-place?

It scorns the tumult of the city;  
it does not hear the shouts of the driver.

It ranges the mountains as its pasture,  
and it searches after every green thing.

"Is the wild ox willing to serve you?  
Will it spend the night at your crib?

Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,  
or will it harrow the valleys after you?

Will you depend on it because its strength is great,  
and will you hand over your labour to it?

Do you have faith in it that it will return,  
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?

"The ostrich's wings flap wildly,  
though its pinions lack plumage.

For it leaves its eggs to the earth,  
and lets them be warmed on the ground,

forgetting that a foot may crush them,  
and that a wild animal may trample them.

It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;  
though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;

because God has made it forget wisdom,  
and given it no share in understanding.

When it spreads its plumes aloft,  
it laughs at the horse and its rider."

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Sung by all*  
**PSALM 121**

Anglican Chant by Sam Doyle



- 1 I lift up my eyes to the / hills; \*  
from where is my help to / come?
- 2 My help comes from the / LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and / earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be / moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall a- / sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over / Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor / sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches / over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your / right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by / day, \*  
nor the moon by / night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all / evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you / safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming / in, \*  
from this time forth for ever- / more.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:**

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

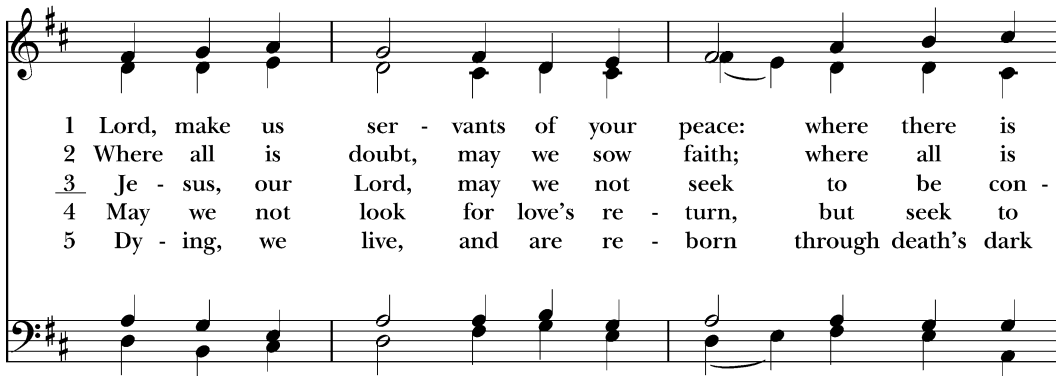
**People:** Thanks be to God.



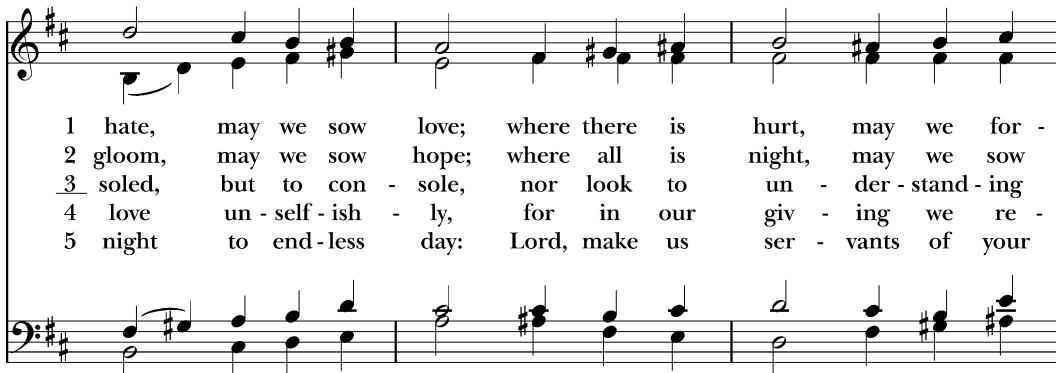
*Please stand, sung by all.*

**GRADUAL HYMN:** *Lord, make us servants of your peace*


**Hymn 593**



1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is  
2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is  
3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -  
4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to  
5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark



1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -  
2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow  
3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing  
4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -  
5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your



1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.  
2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.  
3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.  
4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.  
5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Copyright © James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division on Cassell Ltd. Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979). Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. used by permission of the publisher.

*Please stand.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 12:13-21**

**Deacon:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

**Deacon:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Milton C. Williams, Jr.

*Please stand.*

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP p358

*Celebrant and People:*

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

**Intercessor:** Almighty God, you raised up your servant Francis of Assisi to be a champion for the poor, oppressed, and all of Creation. This day we give thanks for his witness, and pray for the furthering of your Kingdom which he sought to build on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray that you might make us instruments of your peace; that our land might be filled with justice, mercy, and forgiveness for all people, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Intercessor:** We pray for those who see injustice in this world and speak out against it, and those who work with the poor, the sick, and the mentally ill, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Intercessor:** We pray for those for whom the darkness seems to hide the light, for those who suffer from depression and despair. Grant that we might show forth your hope and light to all whom we come in contact with, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Intercessor:** We pray that we might know the joy of giving, the gift of consolation, and the virtue of patient understanding. Let us always remember that the things which unite us are stronger than the forces which seek to divide us, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Intercessor:** We pray for the forgiveness of our sins, that being pardoned we might be free to serve you in newness of life, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Intercessor:** We pray for all of your Creation. For the right uses of natural resources, for ethical treatment of all animals, for a sense of awe and wonder in seeing nature, and for the wisdom and will to preserve the sacred gifts of the earth, of Brother Sun and Sister Moon, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

*Intercessor:* For those who need our prayers and whom we now remember:

*People:* [pause for silent prayer]

*Intercessor:* For them and for ourselves, let us pray to the Lord:

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Intercessor:* We give thanks for the altar flowers in the church given to the glory of God and in celebration of Karen and Bob Isner's 50th wedding anniversary.  
(silence)

*Intercessor:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Celebrant:* Loving God, grant us a sense of the Franciscan spirit- that we might live with compassion in our hearts, with simplicity in our devotion to your causes, and hope in all we do. Bless us, your people; help us to be good and faithful stewards of your bounty. These things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit reign, one God, for all eternity.

*People:* Amen.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP p360

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All:* 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.

*Celebrant:* 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 HOLY COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*One in Him*

Craig Courtney 2004

Text, Fanny Crosby

One in him, our great deliverer, let our hopes and aims be one;  
Let us live in sweet communion with the Father and the Son.  
Keep the unity of spirit in the sacred bonds of peace;  
Strong in Him whose hand will guide us in the path of perfect peace. (refrain)  
Like the dew on Hermon falling, like the oil on Aaron's head,  
Will the grace of him, who loves us, on his faithful ones descend. (refrain)  
One in him, our great Redeemer, let our prayers as one ascend,  
While we add to each petition "Father, let thy will be done." (refrain)

*Please stand.*

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP p361

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. 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.

## SANCTUS

Hymnal S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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

*Please kneel.*

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A CONTINUES**

**BCP p362**

***Celebrant:*** ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***All:*** Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

***Celebrant:*** ... 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.

***People:*** AMEN.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP p364**

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

***All:*** 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.

*8:00am only*

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

***Celebrant:*** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

***People:*** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



# FRACTION

Hymnal S171

Music: Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

# THE PEACE

***Celebrant:*** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

***Celebrant:*** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

17

*Please be seated.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

*Please stand.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

*Celebrant:* The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

*Please stand, sung by all.*

## CLOSING HYMN: *Rise up, ye saints of God*

Hymn 551

1 Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with less - er things, give  
2 Rise up, ye saints of God! His king - dom tar - ries long; Lord,  
3 Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; and

heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.  
bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.  
quick-ened by the Spi - rit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system contains three lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: '1 Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with less - er things, give', '2 Rise up, ye saints of God! His king - dom tar - ries long; Lord,', '3 Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; and', 'heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.', 'bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.', 'quick-ened by the Spi - Rit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!'.

Words: William Pierson Merrill (1867-1954), alt. Music: *Festal Song*, William H. Walter (1825-1893).

## THE DISMISSAL

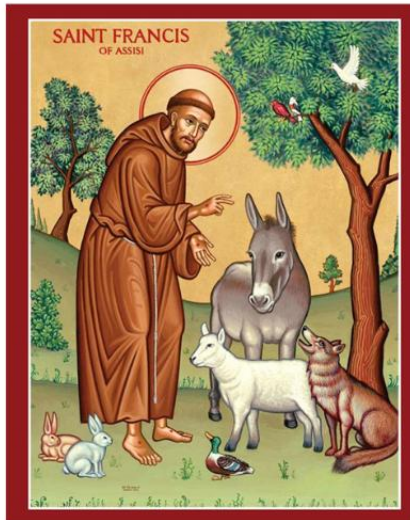
**Deacon:** Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE



# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 5TH



**3:30pm**  
**Front Lawn**  
**(Inclement Weather -Parish Hall)**

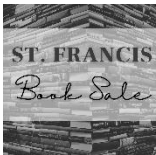
# HISTORY OF ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

## *October 1954 - Celebrating 70+ Years*

St. Francis Church was organized in October 1954 as a mission of Holy Trinity Parish. The first service was held in Irving Park Elementary School in November 1954, with 104 people attending. A Charter Scroll was signed in the Octave of Epiphany 1955, at which time 180 baptized people formally transferred their membership to the new mission. Construction of the church building began in July 1955, the cornerstone was laid in October, and the first service was held on Christmas Day in 1955. St. Francis became an independent parish in union with the Diocese of North Carolina in 1956. The assistant rector of Holy Trinity, the Rev. Peter Robinson, became the first rector and served for 20 years.



The St. Francis Day School was founded in 1964. The Day School provides a preschool experience in a faith-centered environment that nurtures children spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically as it prepares them to be engaged students and good citizens.



The St. Francis Book Sale was started in 1958 and is one of St. Francis' prominent community programs. The proceeds go to local outreach programs.



Each year St. Francis Church invites the Greensboro community to celebrate the Blessing of the Animals honoring the Feast of St. Francis on the first Sunday of October.

We embrace the values of our namesake, St. Francis, and take them to heart: Simplicity. Compassion. Hope.

We practice these values internally, as we support and minister to the families of our congregation, Youth Ministry and Day School.

Equally important, these values are evidenced in our Outreach Ministries and activities. We care about the community in which we live and work to make it a better place for all.

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Saint Francis of Assisi was born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, but nicknamed Francesco; was an Italian Catholic friar and preacher. On July 16, 1228, he was proclaimed a saint by Pope Gregory IX. He is known as the patron saint of animals and the environment and is one of the two patron saints of Italy. It is customary for Catholic and Anglican churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day of October 4th.

Francis preached to man and beast the universal ability and duty of all creatures to praise God and the duty of men to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

Perhaps the most famous incident that illustrates the Saint's humility towards nature is recounted in the "Fioretti" ("Little Flowers"), a collection of legends and folklore that sprang up after the Saint's death. It is said that one day, while Francis was travelling with some companions, they happened upon a place in the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds." The birds surrounded him, intrigued by the power of his voice, and not one of them flew away. He is often portrayed with a bird, typically in his hand.

Another legend from the Fioretti tells that in the city of Gubbio, where Francis lived for some time, was a wolf "terrifying and ferocious, who devoured men as well as animals." Francis had compassion for the townsfolk, and so he went up into the hills to find the wolf. Soon, fear of the animal had caused all his companions to flee, though the saint pressed on. When he found the wolf, he made the sign of the cross and commanded the wolf to come to him and hurt no one. Miraculously the wolf closed his jaws and lay down at the feet of St. Francis.

The most faithful follower of St. Francis was Clare Offreduccio. (1193-1253) Together they are credited with founding the Franciscan movement. It is said that the greatest gifts Francis and Clare leave for us are a deeply rooted desire for God, a fervent commitment to prayer, and a life that generates action.

Francis is also credited with the idea of presenting the first live nativity scene using live animals and people. It was held in a cave in Assisi during Francis' lifetime using local villagers and their animals.

# ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA**

THE RT. REV. JENNIFER BROOKE-DAVIDSON  
**ASSISTANT BISHOP  
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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## THE VESTRY

**Senior Warden:** Janice Sund, **Junior Warden:** Teresa Schrader,  
**Clerk:** Laura Kilmartin, **Treasurer:** Rick Saunders

Thu Bray, Pat Brookshire, Donna Ehinger, Rachel Gallagher,  
Beverly Grier, Tom Porter, Pat Russell, Lynn Sandlin, David Smith

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