

Wonder Church



October 4, 2026

The 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

GATHERING MUSIC

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit

Please stand as you are able to sing.

Refrain

O ev'ry time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Yes, ev'ry time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

1 Upon the mountain when my God spoke, out of His mouth came fire and smoke.

All around me looks so fine, asked my Lord if all was mine.

Refrain

2 The Jordan river runs right cold, it chills the body, not the soul.

Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back.

Refrain

THE COLLECT

Remain standing. We say the words together.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

READING:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

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.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,

judge between me
and my vineyard.

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?

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.

I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For 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!

PSALM:

Psalms 80:7-14

The Psalm will be read responsively by verse.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 You prepared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea and its branches to the River.

12 Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Stand as you are able.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They 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."

Jesus 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'?

Therefore 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. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Discussion and Homily

Rev. Bob Farrow

THE CREED

Please stand as you are able. We say the words in bold together.

We believe in God, **our Father in heaven.**

We believe in God, **who made the world.**

We believe in God, **who gives us life and helps us grow.**

We believe in Jesus, **the son of God and the son of Mary.**

We believe in Jesus, **who shows us that God is love.**

We believe in Jesus, **who lived and died for us.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us love others.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who makes us holy.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us to know God.**

We are God's family, **the church.**

We are God's family, **forgiven through Jesus Christ.**

We are God's family, **at home with God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand or kneel as they are able.

God calls us to follow Jesus. On the way, let us join all the disciples everywhere and pray in the love of God:

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of our creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially we pray for Wesley, Linda, Nonie, David, Hollis, Jamie, Peggy, Jimmy, Larry, and Deborah.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

THE CONFESSION

**Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
In thought, word, and deed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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 Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **AMEN.**

EXCHANGE THE PEACE

All stand for the peace.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

October Birthdays: Paul Westburg, Bobo Morgan, Charles Norris, Judy McCracken, John Brent, Libby Horne, William Morgan, Liz Dixon, Suzy Eidson

October Anniversaries: - Gene & Christi Wells, Bob & Judy McCracken, Mike & Linda Sawyer

OFFERTORY

It's the first Sunday of the month! All loose offerings will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. One of the ways we share the love of Christ for all people is by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities. The need is always great; please consider a small contribution.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord of the Dance

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they
 3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the
 4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would not fol - low me; I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they
 I am the life that 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came to me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Am D7 G Em Bm Em
 Am D7 C G Refrain G Bm

WORDS: Sydney Carter, 1963

MUSIC: 19th cent. Shaker tune; adapt. by Sydney Carter, 1963;
 harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988

LORD OF THE DANCE
 Irr. with Refrain

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Continues on the next page

ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may

be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

The Presentation

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Eucharistic Prayer - Adapted Prayer A

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, Father, Creator of all. You made everything and you made us. You called us to new life in Jesus. And so we praise you, singing with the angels, and the saints, and all of heaven:

Sanctus

Hymnal S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven 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. ____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The Celebrant continues

Holy Father, you love us so much, you made us to be with you; and even when we all turned away from you and your love, you came toward us. You sent Jesus, your Son, who became human, like us. Jesus said such amazing things and did such wonderful things, that people began to follow him. He turned us back to you.

On the night before Jesus died on the cross, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Then he lifted up the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with them, and said, "Take, drink, this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

So, let's celebrate the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Holy Spirit, make these gifts holy, to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and never-ending life in him.

Make us holy too, so we can receive the bread and wine and live in peace.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together in the words Jesus taught us:

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.

BREAK THE BREAD

Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast, alleluia.

COMMUNION HYMN

I'd Rather Have Jesus

This hymn will be performed by Kevin Anderson

SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you.

All people are invited to receive Communion. Extend two hands if you wish to receive the bread and the wine; one hand if you want bread only. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. The clergy will stand by the first pews and you can make your way to them to receive communion and then return to your pews.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Standing or kneeling.

Loving God,

we give you thanks for feeding us with spiritual food,

the bread of life and cup of salvation,

Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth a people

forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may share your love and joy

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.

BLESSING

Please stand for the blessing.

CLOSING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the start I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain*

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, And there proclaim, my God how great thou art. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room,
to the left as you exit the nave.**

St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

*Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a
caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice,
peace, and love.*

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Wesley Brown, Linda Wilson-Sterling of Christian Valley Church, Nonie Bueche, David Mullins, Hollis Hale, Jamie Webb, Peggy Sivell, Jimmy Hatchett, Larry Culpepper, and Deborah Culpepper. Continuing prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, and Mary Butcher.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster

VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry,
and Steve Morse
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*

MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Lector: Margaret Zachry
Ushers: William Morgan & Steve Morse
Virtual Minister: Katherine Johnson
Eucharistic Minister: John Brent
Flowers: Barbara Bradley

UPCOMING DATES

TODAY at 5 p.m. Blessing of the Animals

OCT 7: Book Club after Evening Prayer at 5 p.m.

OCT 17: Low Country Boil

OCT 22: Harris County Truck & Treat 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

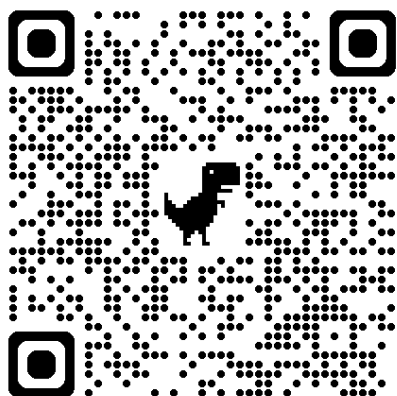
Calendar Updates:

Low Country Boil has been postponed to a date TBA in the spring.
Contact Erin in the church office if you purchased a ticket.

Pulpit Swap with Christian Valley will be at St. Nicholas on November 11.

It's October - Candy Time! St. Nicholas will have a table at Harris County's Truck & Treat event at Mike Tracey Arena on October 22. We need candy to hand out to the local kids. If you are able to grab an extra bag when you shop for your own, that would be great! Just toss it on the kitchen island and Erin will take care of it. (Bwah-hah-hah...)

The St. Nicholas Book Club has chosen Alison Larkin's *The People We Keep* for their next selection. (From GoodReads) A lyrical coming-of-age novel about a young woman's journey through heartbreak, chosen family, self-discovery, and creative resilience in 1990s upstate New York. See your newsletter for more! The book club meets on the first Wednesday of the month after Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m.



Get all the news: Use this QR code to go to the most recent newsletter!