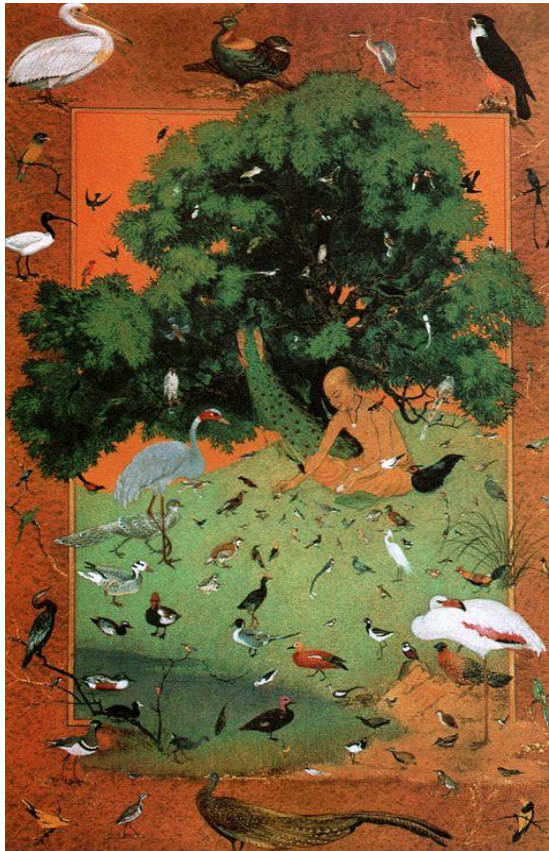
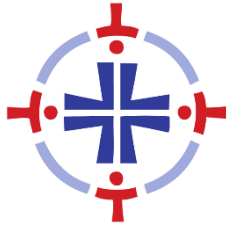




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Feast of St. Francis
Sunday, October 4, 2026



Welcome to St. Simon's

Celebrating God's love for all. Embodying Christ in the world.

If you are here today, you belong, no matter where you are on your journey of faith. Welcome.

St Simon's is a joyful and hopeful congregation that invites all who seek God into community, questions and doubts included. Please feel free to participate as fully in the worship of God as you wish. Lift your voice in praise, respond to the prayers and readings, and come to the altar for communion or a blessing. Or, if you prefer, sit back quietly and allow God's Spirit to speak to you in the way that feels most comfortable.

Welcome, Children. You are invited as full participants in our worship just as you are. God delights in you.

Welcome, Elders. Your wisdom and experience are valued in our community. God has shaped you and you are beautiful.

Welcome, you.

Welcome, everyone, to God's table. This is the table of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and all who seek God are invited to share in communion. If you wish to participate, but prefer not to receive communion, please join everyone coming forward. Cross your arms over your chest and we will be glad to give you a blessing instead. If you wish to have communion brought to you at your seat, or if you desire a gluten-free wafer, please notify an usher.

Wherever you find yourself on the journey, there is a place for you here.
May you encounter God in this community.

The Holy Eucharist

** Indicates the assembly stands, if able.*

*All portions of the service in **Bold** are spoken by the assembly.*

Please silence your cell phone.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

*Opening Hymn “Let all creation bless the Lord”



1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heaven with praise is —
2. All li - ving things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and
3. O men and wo - men e - very-where, lift up a hymn of —



ring - ing. Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir —
moun - tains, sing to the God who gave you birth! Be —
glo - ry. Let all who know God's stead-fast care tell —



up the an - gels' — sing - ing. Sing, wind and rain! Sing,
joy - ful, springs and foun - tains, lithe wa - ter - life, bright
out sal - va - tion's — sto - ry. No tongue be si - lent



snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat! Ex -
air - borne birds, wild ro - ving beasts, tame flocks and herds! Ex -
sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart! Ex -



alt the God who — made you.

Blessed be God: the Author, the Only-Begotten, and the Gift.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

***The Gloria**

S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty 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



The Word of God

*The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we through his poverty might be rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that we, inspired by the devotion of you servant Francis, may serve you with singleness of heart, and attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The Assembly is seated

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 22:13-16

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness
and his upper rooms by injustice,
who makes his neighbors work for nothing
and does not give them their wages,

who says, "I will build myself a spacious house
 with large upper rooms,"
 and who cuts out windows for it,
 paneling it with cedar
 and painting it with vermilion.
 Are you a king
 because you compete in cedar?
 Did not your father eat and drink
 and do justice and righteousness?
 Then it was well with him.
 He judged the cause of the poor and needy;
 then it was well.
 Is not this to know me?
 says the Lord.
 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 148



- A Praise the Lord!
 Across the heavens, from the heights,
 B all of you angels, heavenly beings,
 sing praise, sing praise!
 A Sun and moon, glittering stars,
 sing praise, sing praise.
 B Highest heavens, rain clouds,
 sing praise, sing praise.

- A Praise God's name,
whose word called you forth
- B and fixed you in place for ever
by eternal de-cree.
- A Let there be praise; from depths of the earth,
from creatures of the deep.
- B Fire and hail, snow and mist, storms, winds, mountains, hills,
Fruit trees and cedars, wild beasts and birds.
- A Princes, judges, rulers, subjects,
men, women, old and young,
- B praise, praise the holy name,
this name beyond all names.
- A God's splendor above the earth,
above the heavens, gives strength to the nation,
- B glory to the faithful, a people close to the Lord.
Israel, let there be praise!

The Assembly stands as they are able to face the Gospeler.

***The Gospel Procession**

All join in singing both before and after the gospel.



***The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 11:25-30

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Jenny Hulen

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

The Blessing of the Animals

Ministers will move through the worship space and bless each animal.

God our Creator, thank you for giving us the animals which fill your world. Thank you for calling us to be your partners in their care, and for giving us our pets with whom we share our lives. We ask you, Lord, to assist us to be good to our pets always, to take care of them so that they will be healthy and happy. Send us now into your world with the wisdom and the will to protect it and all living things that dwell on it. Through our brother, Jesus Christ, with the aid of the Holy Spirit we pray. **AMEN.**

Hymn

“Make me a Channel of Your Peace”

Verses 1, 2, 4



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, And
there is dark-ness, on-ly light, And
giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.

Verse 3



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek So much to be con-



soled as to con-sole. To be un-der-stood as to un-der-



stand. To be loved as to lovewith all my soul.

***The Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***The Prayers of the People**

In gratitude for all we have received, every perfect gift that comes from God,
we gather to offer our intentions, petitions, and thanksgivings to God.

We pray for the Church, founded on the gift of your Word, and for all who
gather to worship, praise, and work. Pour your blessings on Sarah, Archbishop
of Canterbury, Sean, Presiding Bishop, Paula our Bishop, and our clergy and
leadership. Pray for the Church.

Silence

We who witness your saving acts in the world,
are grateful for all your gifts

We pray for the world and the gift of all Creation. We pray for the welfare of our planet, and for the wise stewardship of our world. Bless and guide our President, Donald, our legislative and judicial institutions, and the members of our local government. May they care for the people they represent and work for peace and justice.

Silence

We who witness your power in the world,
are grateful for all your gifts

We pray for the work of St. Simon's in the world. As we enter this season of intention and focus on the gifts that we give, inspire us to be generous with our time, our talent, and our treasure to care for all.

Silence

We who witness the impact of our service in our community
are grateful for all your gifts

We pray for our neighbors and all who need our prayers. We remember the sick, the lonely, the suffering; those oppressed domestically or abroad and those in prison; for all who give care and comfort to those in need; for the poor and those who sleep on our streets, and for those whose needs are known to you alone. Especially we pray for Jane, Michael and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital

Silence

We who witness your healing in the world
are grateful for all your gifts

We pray for those who have died. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

Silence

We who witness your eternal love in the world
are grateful for all your gifts

With grateful hearts we thank you, Abundant God for hearing the faithful prayers of your people. Open our eyes to see all the gifts you have given and all the gifts we can offer to our world in your name.

Amen.

***The Confession and Absolution**

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

**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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

***The Peace**

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

The Ministers and Assembly stand to greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Blessing Birthdays and Anniversaries

All those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries of any kind are invited to add their name to the chat on Zoom or feed on Facebook

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Engagement Opportunities

Giving Season Song “God whose giving know no ending” *Ode to Joy*



1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end-ing, From Your rich and end-less store:
2. As you, Lord, have lived for oth-ers, so may we for oth-ers live.



Na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, Cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
Free-ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free-ly may your ser - vants give.



Gift-ed by You, we turn to You, Off -'ring up our - selves in praise;
Ev - 'ry per - fect gift we ga-ther, let us use for caus - es just;



Thank-ful song will rise for - ev - er, Gra - cious do-nor of our days.
We are stew-ards of the bount-y loaned to us in sol-emn trust.

Offertory *Text 73256 to give. In the body of the text type saints*

Offertory Anthem “Sing Hallelujah!” Sung by St. Simon’s Choir

Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord!
Sing with a cheerful voice;
Exalt our God with one accord,
And in God’s name rejoice.
Ne’er cease to sing, thou ransomed host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost,

Until in realms of endless light
Your praises shall unite.

There we to all eternity
Shall join the angelic praise
And songs in perfect harmony
To God our Savior raise;
He hath redeemed us by His blood,
And made us kings and priests to God,
For us, for us, the Lamb was slain!
Praise ye the Lord! Amen.

Text: John Swertner, Music: Raymond H. Haan

*Presentation of the Gifts

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures

here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: Cre -

a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*The Great Thanksgiving

BCP form C

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

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.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

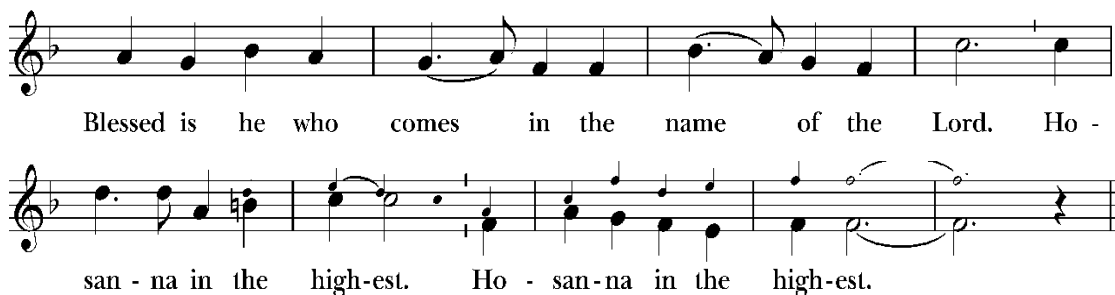
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



And so, O 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 he 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, he 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 all 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,

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

Lord God of our Forbearers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Leah, Rachael, Bilhah and Zilpah; 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, O God, 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,

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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

A period of silence is kept.

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.

The Presider and those worshipping online consume the host together with these words:

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Everyone has a place at God's table and all are invited to share in communion.

Come to the center aisle and forward to receive the Bread. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. If you would like to participate but do not wish to receive the bread and wine, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

Having received the Bread then step to the left to receive the Wine from the Chalice or to the right to receive the Wine or Grape Juice from individual cups. Grape Juice is offered in the middle of the individual cups tray. Empty cups can be placed in the basket located on the windowsill on the right side of our worship space.

Note: Generally, we will begin to sing the communion hymn once the final group of communion recipients has knelt at the rail. This way, more of the congregation can fully participate in singing most of the communion hymn.

Communion Hymn “On Eagle’s Wings”

Verse 1

1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a -
bide in his shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: “My
ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!”

Refrain 

And he will raise you up on ea - gle’s wings, bear you on the
breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
hold you in the palm of his hand. *Last time to coda*  *To verses*
2. The

Verse 2

snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and
fam - ine will bring you no fear: un - der his wings your
ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield. **D.S.**

Verse 4

4. For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com - mand to
guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will
bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone. **D.S.**

⌘ Coda

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

In gratitude for this moment,
this place,
those around us,
Christ among us,
we give ourselves to you our God.

Take us out to live as changed people
because we have met the risen Christ
and cannot be the same.

**Ask much of us,
expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.**

**So may we live to your glory
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.
Through Jesus our brother,
with the aid of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.¹**

When members of the community are unable to attend the service, representatives of the people are sent with bread and wine to extend our communion with them.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

***The Blessing**

Now may God, who gives seed to the sower and grain to the reaper, provide all that we need so that we may produce a rich harvest of faith, love, justice and joy for the good of the earth and its people and to the glory of God. **Amen.²**

*Closing Hymn

“O God, Your Creatures Fill The Earth”



1. O _____ God, your crea - tures fill the earth with _____
 2. You _____ made the crea - tures on each farm; You _____
 3. Your _____ crea - tures live in ev - ery land; They _____
 4. You _____ made the pets we wel - come in, They're



won - der and _____ de - light, And ev - ery liv - ing
 know the things they need. May they grow health - y,
 fill the sky _____ and sea. O _____ Lord, you give us
 won - drous bles - sings, too. With paws and whis - kers,



thing has worth and _____ beau - ty in _____ your sight. So _____
 safe from harm, And _____ safe from hu - man greed. Just _____
 your com - mand To _____ love them ten - der - ly. We're
 wings and fins, They of - fer praise to you. O _____



play - ful dol - phins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and
 as a shep - herd loves the sheep, You _____ know their joy, their
 called to have do - min - ion here To _____ care for _____ them al -
 Lord, you call _____ us to em - brace These crea - tures in our



graze. Your song-birds share a _____ morn - ing hymn To _____ of - fer you their praise.
 pain. Lord, bless the a - ni - mals we keep; May all farms be hu - mane.
 ways. By _____ lov - ing crea - tures you hold dear, We of - fer you our praise.
 care. May we show kind - ness, love and grace To _____ all pets ev - ery - where.

*Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God
and in loving memory of Helen M Knight
by her sons George, Gary and Dan.*

LIVE-STREAM NOTICE

A reminder, this public service will be live-streamed and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear in the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media.

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¹ Iona Abbey Worship Book, p 131-2

² Iona Abbey Worship Book, p 132

Hymn, Standing at the Future's Threshold, New Century Hymnal, Pilgrim Press.

Our Cover Art:

Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. St Francis with the Birds of India, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville,

TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/59252> [retrieved September 16, 2026]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

St. Simon's Episcopal Church

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Parish Office Hours ~ Monday—Thursday ~ 9:00am—3:00pm

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago*

The Rev. Jennifer Hulen, *Rector*

Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*

Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Crucifer	Dave Howley
Chalice Minister	Karen Waechter
Readers	Sara Lewandowski
Intercessor	Clara Callahan
Ushers	Rachel Jarosik Allison Newhouse
Altar Guild	Maura Howley
Porter	Rich Milburn
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Flute	Madison Monnette
Technical Production Team	Alan Medsker