

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—September 19, 2021  
Morning Prayer

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant*      Blessed be the One Holy and Living God.  
*People*      **Glory to God forever and ever.**

SONG OF PRAISE

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

Words: African American Spiritual  
Music: African American Spiritual  
arr. Carl Haywood

OPENING COLLECT

*Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (excerpt)

Steven Shakespeare

*Celebrant*      God be with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*      God who draws us near, who comes to our level, whose nature is revealed in lordship laid aside: give us grace to welcome you in the one who tests the bounds of our community: in the child, the outcast, the one who comes with no power save that of remaking our heart; through Jesus Christ, the one who will be betrayed. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

FIRST MESSAGE

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

*Lay Leader*      Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word of God.  
*People*      **Our hearts and minds are open.**

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*Lay Leader*      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

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

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

*Please be seated.*

## HOMILY

The Reverend Carol Arney

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*Lay Leader* Let us affirm our faith.  
*People* We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;  
                   in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,  
                   conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.  
  We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity,  
                   a feasting God.  
  We affirm a faith, that takes us beyond a safe place into action,  
                   into vulnerability, into the streets.  
  We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;  
                   to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;  
                   to stand with those on the edge;  
                   to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of Hope. Amen.

From *Iona Abbey Worship Book* by The Iona Community

*Lay Leader* And now, we join together with members of the worldwide Anglican/Episcopal Communion in translating the beliefs in our hearts into action in our lives, in these baptismal questions. Please respond to each promise by saying, 'I will with God's help.'

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Book of Common Prayer Form II*

*Lay Leader* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops Michael and Craig; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*People*

*Sung response: Teach Us and Show Us the Way*

Conie Borchardt

Teach us and show us the way. \_\_\_\_\_

Teach us and show us the way. \_\_\_\_\_

Teach us and show us the way. \_\_\_\_\_

*Lay Leader* I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. <**Sung response**>

*Lay Leader* I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. <**Sung response**>

*Lay Leader* I ask your prayers for all who seek God or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God. <**Sung response**>

*Lay Leader* I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died. <**Sung response**>

*Lay Leader* Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. <**Sung response**>

*Please be seated.*

SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

*Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings.*

*Lay Leader* Hear our prayers most gracious God, for the people of St Mary's, who thank you for setting us at tasks that demand our best efforts, leading us to accomplishments that satisfy and delight us. As we regather, still in a time of transition and discernment, we seek the Spirit's guidance and wisdom for important decisions ahead. Accompany us in the Listening Sessions where we will learn from one another in these challenging times. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Word and Wisdom of God. **Amen.**

O God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus, in whom we live and move and have our being. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## PEACE

*Celebrant*      The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*            And also with you.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*People*      God be in my head and in my thinking.  
                  God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
                  God be in my heart and in my loving.  
                  God be in my hands and in my giving. Amen.

*We are not passing the offertory plate at this time.*

You are welcome to place your offering in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary or make an online offering by pressing the "contribute" button on our website, [saintmaryseiscopal.org](http://saintmaryseiscopal.org)

## LORD'S PRAYER

*People* Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name.  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

*People* Life is short, and we haven't much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us along the way. So be quick to love, make haste to be kind—and the blessing of God goes with us. (Adapted from 19th Century Swiss philosopher Henri Arniel)

**CLOSING SONG** #660—*O Master Let Me Walk with Thee* Words: Washington Gladden  
Music: *Maryton*, Henry Percy Smith

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon says the words of dismissal.*  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

SOCIAL TIME