

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost—October 31, 2021  
Morning Prayer

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

SONG OF PRAISE

LEVAS #136 – *I Have Decided*

Words: Ascribed to Idina Prince  
Music: Indian Folk Melody,  
Arr: Norman Johnson ASCAP

OPENING COLLECT

Adapted from Episcopal Diocese of Washington *Prayers for Stewardship*

*Officiant* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* O Lord, Giver of Life and Source of Freedom; all we have is received from your hand. You call us to be stewards of your Abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to our care. Help us to use your gifts wisely. Teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship be a witness to the love of Jesus in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in his name. **Amen.**

FIRST MESSAGE

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

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

Moses said: Now this is the commandment--the statutes and the ordinances--that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children, may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

## GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-34

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

One of the scribes came near and heard the Saducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

## ADAPTED GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHP

**Break out groups discuss the lessons.**

- *What is the Holy Spirit doing/saying in these lessons?*
- *Where do you see yourself?*
- *What do these lessons say about this journey you're on?*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*Officiant*      Let us stand and 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*

*Officiant*      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

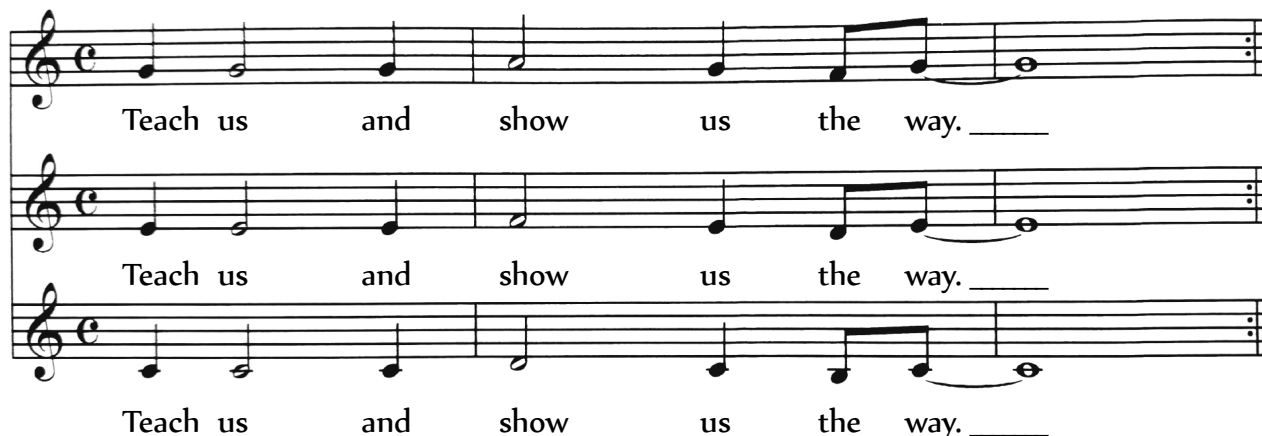
## *Book of Common Prayer* Form II

*Officiant* 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



*Officiant* 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>

*Officiant* 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>

*Officiant* 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>

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

*Officiant* 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>

## SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

*Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings.*

*Officiant* 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. In this season of transition and discernment, we seek the Spirit's guidance and wisdom for important decisions ahead. 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.**

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

*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.

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