

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A ✠ SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

VOLUNTARY

Come Down, O Love Divine

Ralph Vaughan-Williams, arr. Sedio

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

“Not here for high and holy things”

Hymnal 9

TRADITIONAL COLLECT, PROPER 20

BCP 182

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY COLLECT, PROPER 20

BCP 234

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

THE PSALM

145:1-8

music by Jerome Webster Meachen (1930-2015)

- ¹I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- ²Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- ³Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- ⁴One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- ⁵I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- ⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.



THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

During the hymn, children three years old to fifth grade are invited to follow the banner-bearer to Children's Church. They will return at the Peace.

SEQUENCE HYMN

"Come, labor on"

Hymnal 541

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the

marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

THE SERMON

The Rev. Clare Nesmith

OFFERTORY

Rejoice In The Lord Always

anonymous 16th century

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is even at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

(Philippians 4:4-7)

PRESENTATION HYMN *St. James*, v. 3, “With gratitude and humble trust” worship booklet p. 9

After the Invitation, all baptized persons may come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you are not baptized or do not wish to receive Communion, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead. For gluten-free wafers, ask at the rail.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Hymn	“Lord, we have come”	Hymnal 348
Hymn	“Rock of ages, cleft for me”	Hymnal 685
Hymn	“Savior, again to thy dear Name”	Hymnal 345

THE BLESSING

worship booklet p. 14

CLOSING HYMN
DISMISSAL
VOLUNTARY

“Lead on, O King eternal”

Hymnal 555
worship booklet p. 15
William Walton

Crown Imperial



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Flowers on the altar** are given to the glory of God by **Kent & Mary Percy** in loving memory of their parents **De & Betty Percy** and **Fulton & Evelyn Cocks**.
- Today the **Vestry Person of the Day** is **Sally Karkula**.
- Today the **Book Club** meets in room 205 after the 10:30 service
+ the Vestry hosts the hospitality hour
+ we celebrate Holy Eucharist at **Sterling Estates 3 PM**. *You're invited!*
- Sept 21 Monday **Reach Out** luncheon in the Parish Hall 11 AM
- Sept 23 **NO Wednesday Dinner** as schools have Fall Break.
- Sept 28 Monday **Vestry** 7PM (one week later than usual b/c of Fall Break)
- Sept 30 we resume **Wednesday Dinner** and programs for all ages:
+ 5:30 PM dinner *Scan the QR code at right to let us know that you're coming to dinner.*
+ 6:30 PM Evening Prayer and Practice for Choristers & Cherubs
+ 7 PM Adult Formation
+ 7:30 PM Parish Choir practice



Online Giving at St. James
*The QR code at left takes you
to the giving page at*
www.stjamesmarietta.com.



Could you **provide or sponsor lunch** for our **youth group** one Sunday?
*Use the QR Code to sign up
for a time.*

Notice of live-streaming broadcast: Our worship services are live-streamed and posted to social media. If you have concerns about being on camera, please ask one of the ushers to show you seating with limited exposure.

St. James Episcopal Church 161 Church St., Marietta GA 30060 The Reverend Mariclaire Partee Carlsen, Rector <i>for pastoral emergency, phone or text:</i> <i>for an appointment, sign up online</i> Mr. Foster Peterson, Seminarian Dr. Bryan Black, Director of Music Miss Natalie Fowler, Children's Ministry Coordinator Mr. Scott Smoot, Communications Coordinator Office hours Monday – Thursday, 9am-1pm	www.stjamesmarietta.com 770-428-5841 rector@stjamesmarietta.com 678-369-1775 https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta seminarian@stjamesmarietta.com music@stjamesmarietta.com children@stjamesmarietta.com communications@stjamesmarietta.com
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