

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Offering Companionship along the Way

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

OCTOBER 1, 2023



Prelude Improvisation on tune *Bunessan*

Opening Hymn 8 Morning has broken

Bunessan

THE WORD OF GOD

Priest

Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Priest

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God (see insert for music)

Gevert 2017-06

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Let us pray together our collect.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Book of Job 39:1–18

"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them.

"Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing.

"Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labour to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?

"The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Gradual Hymn “God is so good”

African American Spiritual
Led by Marurice Maddox

1 God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
he's so good to me.

3 He's all I need,
He's all I need,
He's all I need,
he's so good to me.

2 He cares for me,
He cares for me,
He cares for me,
he's so good to me.

4 I praise his name,
I praise his name,
I praise his name,
he's so good to me.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11:25-30
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 that 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.”

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

Sermon

The Rev. Heidi Truax

An African Christian Creed

We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything in it. He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know him in the light. God promised in the book of his word, the Bible, that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in a grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again.

Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for all peoples throughout the world. May people who suffer, and are caught up in the midst of natural disaster, disease or poverty, find peace through you;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all those in religious orders, for lay and ordained ministers, and all the holy people of God;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

We give thanks at all times for the blessings of our lives. We lift up our thanksgivings (*we leave time for people to say silently or aloud the things for which they are grateful*). Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

On our parish cycle of prayer we pray today for Keith Johnson, for Theresa and Brian Kenny for Richard and Celia Kirby, and for their families;

That we may serve and love them, and one another, as Christ loves us.

Have compassion on those who suffer, especially (*we read from the book and leave time for other names to be added*). We pray for all who are afflicted with any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for all those who have died, especially those who we name (*we read from the book and leave time for other names to be added*). Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for all the saints, those we love in this world, and in the next;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

The Confession

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.

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

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

Announcements

Offertory Hymn 405 All things bright and beautiful *Royal Oak*

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3 Praise God from whom all blessings flow *Old 100th*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest 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, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy (see insert for music) Gevert 2017-06

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

Fraction Anthem: Blessed are those (see insert for music)

Gevert 2017-06

Here at Trinity we welcome you to take communion with us if you seek a relationship with Jesus. You may drink from the chalice, or you may intinct your wafer. Or, if you prefer, you may receive communion in one kind only, the wafer. We offer grape juice as well as wine.

Communion Hymn 325 Let us break bread together on our knees

Let us break

Postcommunion Prayer – Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

Blessing

And now to our Great God who is able to accomplish in us far more than we can ask or even imagine, to him be glory for ever and ever.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn 400 vss. 1-3, 7 All creatures of our God and King

Lasst uns erfreuen

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please come forward at this time to have pets blessed.

*The Altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of all the animals we have loved in life.*

Serving Today

Rector: The Rev. Heidi Truax

Music Director: Christine Gevert

Minister of Communion: Mike Cuoco

Lector: John Lloyd

Intercessor: Linda Lloyd

Altar Guild: Bev Becker

Counter: John Lloyd

Greeter/Usher: /Jim Conzo/Bev Becker

Verger: Geoff Brown

Announcements

- Today** Collection of pet food and supplies will be delivered to Little Guild
Last day of the Juried Art Show. Thank you, Theresa Kenny and Mary Anne Carley and all others who have worked to make this show a big success!
- Oct. 5—8** Pastor Heidi away for her 50th High School Reunion. (Yikes!)
No Bible Study on Thursday, Oct. 5
Please phone Sr. Warden Linda Lloyd for pastoral issues
- Sunday, Oct. 8** 8:00 and 10:30 AM services—The Rev. Robert Woodroffe presiding
- Sunday, Oct. 15** Noon—Vestry meeting
- Sunday, Oct. 22** 4:00 PM Misa en español con cena después del servicio
(with dinner after the service)
- Sunday, Oct. 29** 4:00 PM - 20th Anniversary Crescendo Concert
- Sunday, Nov. 5** All Saints Sunday
- Sunday, Nov. 12** 3:00—5:00 PM—Regional Convocation at White Memorial Park in Litchfield

Weekly Schedule

- Wednesdays** Services at Noble Horizons, Geer Nursing, Geer Lodge
6:00 PM on first and last Wednesday of the month, Women's AA in Walker Hall
- Thursdays** 1:00 PM Bible Study on Zoom - Gospel of Matthew
- Saturdays** 9:00 AM till Noon—Bookkeeper, Nancy Hiller is in the office every other Sat.

Music Credits/Licensing

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THE REV. HEIDI TRUAX, RECTOR
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