

Voluntary

Andante

Louis Lefébure-Wély

"Andante" from *Every Sunday of the Year*. Music: Louis Lefébure-Wély © 2005 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. OneLicense A-719068

#### Announcements

## Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers

Sponsor: I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Teacher in this congregation.

Antiphon The words which I command you this day shall be upon your hearts; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Priest:We will recount to generations to come the<br/>praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord:People:And the wonderful works he has done.

Let us pray.

God of all wisdom and knowledge, give your blessing and guidance to all who teach in your Church, that by word and example they may lead those who they teach to the knowledge and love of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Teachers in this Parish.

# Commissioning of Choirs

Sponsor:	I present to you these persons to admitted to the ministry of music in this congregation.
Antiphon	Make music to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.
Priest:	Come let us sing to the Lord:
People:	Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us pray.

O God, who inspired David the King both to write songs and to appoint singers for your worship: Give grace to the musicians in your Church, that with psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, they may sing and make music to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Musicians in this Parish.

# THE WORD OF GOD

#### Entrance Rite

Entrance HymnAll Stand.The Hymnal 1982 – 414God, my King, thy might confessingStuttgart

- God, my King, thy might confessing, ever will I bless thy Name; day by day thy throne addressing, still will I thy praise proclaim.
  - 2 Honor great our God befitteth; who his majesty can reach?

Age to age his works transmitteth, age to age his power shall teach.

3 They shall talk of all thy glory, on thy might and greatness dwell, speak of thy dread acts the story, and thy deeds of wonder tell.

- 4 Nor shall fail from memory's treasure works by love and mercy wrought, works of love surpassing measure, works of mercy passing thought.
  - 5 Full of kindness and compassion, slow to anger, vast in love, God is good to all creation; all his works his goodness prove.
- 6 All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; thee shall all thy saints adore: King supreme shall they confess thee, and proclaim thy sovereign power.

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# Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### Collect for Purity

All: 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.

Song of Praise Glory to God

All Stand.

See pew card Marty Haugen

BCP p. 355

BCP p. 355

Refrain:

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

I: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks,

#### we praise you for your glory. Refrain

II: 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. Refrain

I/II: 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. Amen. Refrain

"Glory to God" from *Mass of Creation*. Music: Marty Haugen © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense A-719068

#### The Collect of the Day

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Let us pray.

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 people sit.

# The First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

A Reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Ninevah 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.

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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?"

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

Silence may follow.

#### Psalm 145:1-8

Please remain seated. The choir first introduces the antiphon, then the congregation joins the choir on its repetition each time.

#### ANTIPHON



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- 1 I will exalt you, O God my Sovereign, \* and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you \* and praise your Name for ever and ever. **Antiphon**
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \* there is no end to your greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another \* and shall declare your power. **Antiphon**
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \* and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, \* and I will tell of your greatness. **Antiphon**

- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; \* they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \* slow to anger and of great kindness. **Antiphon**

# Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30 *The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

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.

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

Sequence HymnAll Stand.The Hymnal 1982 – 9Not here for high and holy thingsMorning song

 Not here for high and holy things we render thanks to thee,
 but for the common things of earth, the purple pageantry of dawning and of dying days, the splendor of the sea,

2 the royal robes of autumn moors, the golden gates of spring, the velvet of soft summer nights, the silver glistering of all the million million stars, the silent song they sing, 3 of faith and hope and love undimmed, undying still through death, the resurrection of the world, what time there comes the breath of dawn that rustles through the trees, and that clear voice that saith:

4 Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky,
the fields are wet with diamond dew, the worlds awake to cry
their blessings on the Lord of life, as he goes meekly by.

5 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise; see how the giant sun soars up, great lord of years and days! So let the love of Jesus come and set thy soul ablaze,

6 to give and give, and give again,
what God hath given thee;
to spend thyself nor count the cost;
to serve right gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are,

and all that are to be.

# Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 *All stand.*

- Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
- People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Nancy L.J. Cox

## The Nicene Creed

All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

## We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Season of Creation Prayers of the People	Celtic
All remain standing.	

Intercessor: People:	We cannot restrict God to a building; <b>The very earth and heaven cannot contain</b> <b>God.</b>
Intercessor:	God cannot be captured in books, for God is too mighty;
People:	God cannot be pressed between pages like a flower.
Intercessor: People:	God roams freely and comes to each of us; God hides within each of us, waiting to be found.
Intercessor:	God is present in all trials. <i>You are invited to pray for those who stand in special need today</i> . God waits to be discovered even in what is difficult, painful, and unknown.
People:	We need not travel to find God, for God is always close.

Intercessor:	Come, find God in the heart of what God has created. <i>You are invited to offer your thanksgivings</i> . Know that God is in your heart and with you always because God cares for you.
People:	God waits for you to turn, to seek, to listen.
Intercessor:	Pray for those you love and see no longer. They continue to teach, inspire, and call us to courage. <i>You are invited to pray for those who have died</i> .
People:	Discover that all is in the heart of God, and God is in the heart of all. Amen.

Silence. The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of SinBCP p. 359The Deacon or Celebrant saysLet us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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

The Priest stands and says

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.** 

The Peace	BCP p. 360
All stand	
Celebrant:	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People:	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

A note about receiving Holy Communion: In the Episcopal Church, we understand that Christ is "really present" in the bread and wine provided from God's table. All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.

Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand from the first person who comes to you. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Wine may be received by lightly dipping the bread into the small cup in the center of the plate/paten from which you received the bread. Alternatively, you may choose to drink from the larger cup/chalice which the next person will offer you. Receive the consecrated wine by guiding the offered cup to your lips and sipping. Those who distribute the wine will wipe the chalice with a food safe sanitizer and turn it for the next person after each person receives. You may also decide to take the wafer only. If you choose not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing as your presence is a blessing to all of us. Once you have been blessed or received communion, you may offer a short prayer and then return to your seat.

If physical limitations make it difficult to come forward, please let an usher know that we may have the honor of bringing communion to you.

## Offertory Sentence

#### BCP p. 376

#### The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14* 

# Offertory Anthem Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Folksong, arr. Alan Bullard

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green; The trees of nature fruitless be, Compared with Christ the Apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel, By faith I know but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see, In Jesus Christ the Apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the Apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil – Here I will sit and rest awhile, Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the Apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive;

Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the Apple tree.

"Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" Somerset folk song, arr. by Alan Bullard, from "The Oxford Book of Flexible Anthems" © 2007 OneLicense A-719068 CCLI License #11109172

Doxology

*Old 100th* 

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

#### Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant:All things come of thee, O Lord.People:And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

#### Sursum Corda

The People remain standing.

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Lift up your hearts.

BCP p. 369

People:	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People:	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

#### The Celebrant proceeds.

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 rulers 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.

And 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:

Sanctus	BCP p. 371	Marty Haugen
Celebrant and People		See pew card

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

"Holy, Holy, Holy" from *Mass of Creation*. Music: Marty Haugen © 1984, 1985, GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense A-719068

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues.

And so, Father, 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 many 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.

#### The Celebrant contines

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; 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, Father, 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.

The Great Amen

The Lord's PrayerBCP p. 363And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

#### People and Celebrant

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.

See pew card

#### The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem See pew card Marty Haugen

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

"Lamb of God" from *With One Voice*. Music: Marty Haugen © 1992, Concordia Publishing House OneLicense A-719068

#### Invitation

BCP p. 364

*The Celebrant says* The Gifts of God for the people of God.

#### Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.** 

#### Hymns at Communion

O Master, let me walk with thee

The Hymnal 1982 – 659 *de Tar* 

- O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company,in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,
  - 4 in hope that sends a shining ray

far down the future's broadening way, in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

For the bread which you have broken The Hymnal 1982 – 341

Omni die

 For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured, for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your gift of peace restored, by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

3 As our blesséd ones adore you, seated at our Father's board, may the Church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

4 In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

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# Lay Eucharistic Minister Prayer (as needed) Celebrant: In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist, \_\_\_\_\_ will take the Eucharist to \_\_\_\_\_\_ today. All: 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. Amen.

BCP p. 365

The Post-Communion Prayer After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you

#### with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Blessing

#### BCP p. 366

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.** 

Closing Hymn Come, labor on The Hymnal 1982 – 541 Ora Labora

1 Come, labor on.

Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain, while all around us waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."

2 Come, labor on.

The enemy is watching night and day, to sow the tares, to snatch the seed away; while we in sleep our duty have forgot, he slumbered not.

3 Come, labor on. Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear! No arm so weak but may do service here: by feeblest agents may our God fulfill his righteous will.

4 Come, labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share, to young and old the Gospel gladness bear: redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.

5 Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky, till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Servants, well done."

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Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.People: Thanks be to God.

Voluntary Festal Trumpets

Noel Rawsthorne

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The flowers on the altar today are given by Ruth Bratton to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ruth G. Carlton, and with thanksgiving for Michelle, Elizabeth and Emily Hooker, honoring their September and October birthdays.

## This Week's Announcements

**Sunday school for all ages is at 10 AM.** Nursery for infants-3 year olds is provided every Sunday from 8:45 AM-12:30 PM. EYC Youth meets on Sunday evening from 4:30-6:45 PM. Questions? Contact Tiffany Fulton at <u>tfulton@allsaintsconcord.org</u>.

Parents and Guardians of Middle and High Schoolers are invited to a "book club" style discussion of *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers* by Dr. Lisa Damour. We'll be meeting during EYC time, from 4:45-6 PM. Questions? Contact Katy Ernst at <u>katyernst@gmail.com</u>.

**Cooperative Christian Ministry** has an urgent need for our assistance. Please help by bringing shelf-stable food with you to church. CCM needs canned vegetables, fruits, soup, stew, chili, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, and mac and cheese. Donations can be brought to church.

In celebration of St. Francis Day, everyone is invited to a **Petting Zoo on October 1, 2023 at 10 AM** in the church parking lot. Later in the day, all pets are welcome at the **Blessing of the Pets at 4 PM** in the church courtyard. We are also holding a **Pet Food Drive** this month. Drop pet food donations in the Welcome Center box!

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Foyer Groups are forming! Sign up on the church website by October 1, 2023.

**Cabarrus County Crop Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 8.** The walk starts at 2 PM at Forest Hill UMC. Sign up online for the "All Saints' Episcopal Church, Concord" team using this QR code.



Announcements during Sunday worship services are to be given by the Vestry Person of the Month (VPOM). Please submit any content for verbal announcements to the VPOM. The September VPOM is Don Foskey.

**Prayer** | Please let us know how to pray for you at <u>allsaintsconcord.org/prayer-requests/</u>.

**Giving** | Simply login to Realm!



# Note on Today's Readings The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church. In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus' parable of the laborers in the vineyard is one of his most important statements concerning God's call to all people. That call is always open regardless of our past level of commitment. Those who accept it late are rewarded equally with those of long standing in the Kingdom. It is also a warning to those who have been committed to God for many years, lest they think themselves superior to those newly responding to the call of God.

Jonah did not want to preach repentance to the city of Ninevah (one of the Jews' greatest enemies) lest its people repent and God forgive them. However, after an amazing experience with a fish, Jonah complied. That God would forgive even Nineveh is one of the most striking messages in the Old Testament, expressing the universality of God's love and forgiveness.

Today we begin reading Paul's letter to Philippi. Written to encourage that church, the letter comes from a period when Paul was imprisoned and his own life was in danger.

God's promise to us is not a reward for doing things right. It is our heritage as children and heirs of God's promise. When we gather to sing and tell the story of God's salvation, we discover anew our identity and the identity of all people. Not content to have us merely as creatures, God has made us sons and daughters who feast at the table of God's home, which is our home as well.

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#### CLERGY

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#### **REPORTING TO THE VESTRY**

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