

Creation Season

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
October 25, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

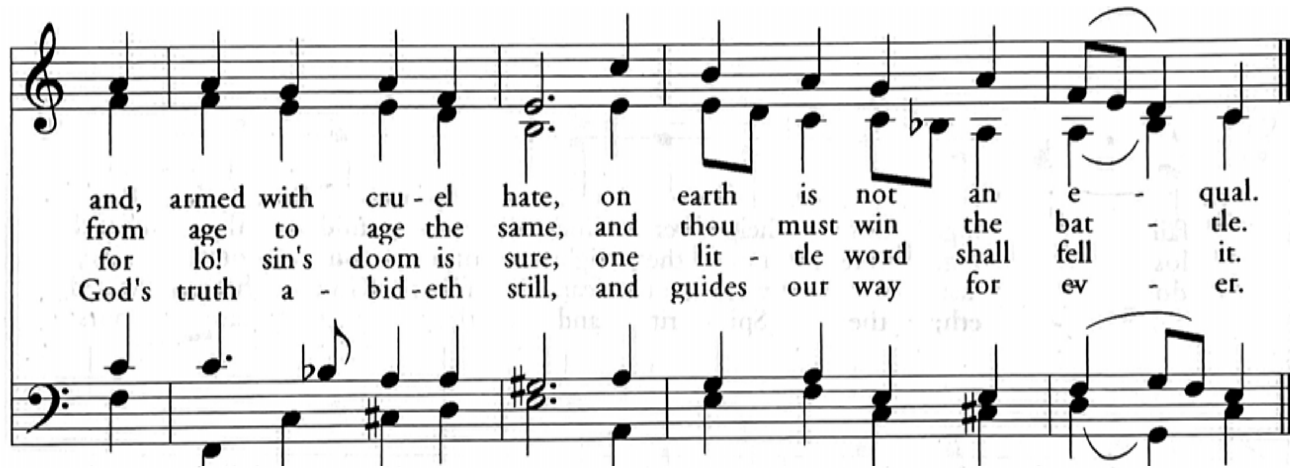
The Hymnal 1982 #688 Incl. lg. vers

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er God a - mid the flood
 los - ing; were not the right one on our side,
 do - ing; us; we will the not fear, for God hath willed
 bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe
 the one of God's own choos - ing; dost ask who that may be?
 all truth to tri - umph through us; for ask sin and dark - ness grim,
 through God who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; with craft and power so great,
 Christ Jes - us, praise to thee! God, Sab - ba - oth thy Name,
 we trem - ble not with - in; strong rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:



Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546; tr. Frederick Henry Hedge (1805-1890); based on Psalm 46:
modified for inclusive language by Kim Hardy (b. 1958)
Music: *Ein feste Burg*, melody Martin Luther (1483-1546); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Opening Acclamation and Prayer of the Directions

Presider Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People ***The Holy One's love is new every morning.***

Officiant

We turn to the east, O God, and offer thanks to you whose creative mystery shines in the rising of the sun. May we honor the breath of life that flows through all creation, and the intricate web that connects all things. May the divine mystery open us to new beginnings.

People ***Renew us in your love.***

Officiant

We turn to the west, O God, and give thanks to you who laid the course of the sun's setting. May we welcome its waning light and hallow all endings, remembering our own sundown. Open us, we pray, to the transformations of letting go.

People ***Renew us in your love.***

Officiant

We turn to the north, O God, with reverence for the living wisdom of your holy ones, especially the Yelamu tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone people who have lived in vital relationship with this unceded land for thousands of years. Strengthen us to engage the deep work of repair for which the very soil cries out.

People ***Renew us in your love.***

Officiant

We turn to the south, O God, and give thanks for your irrepressible joy in our lives. May that joy inspire us to celebrate the dignity and support the flourishing of all creation.

People ***Renew us in your love.***

Chant of Praise: Jubilate Deo (repeat 3 times) *Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)*



The Collect of the Day

Presider The Creator be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Lector A reading from Deuteronomy (34:1-12).

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17

The Deacon or Presider introduces the Psalm and reads the Antiphon. All join in reading the bolded text.

Antiphon Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

- 1 O God, you have been our refuge* from one generation to another.**
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,*
from age to age you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say,* “Go back, O child of earth”**
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past*
and like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream;* we fade away suddenly like the grass.**
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;* in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- 13 Return, O God; how long will you tarry?* be gracious to your servants.**

14 *Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;*
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.*

15 *Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us*
and the years in which we suffered adversity.*

16 *Show your servants your works* and your splendor to their children.*

17 *May the graciousness of our God be upon us;*
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.*

Antiphon Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The Second Reading

Lector A reading from 1 Thessalonians (2:1-8).

You yourselves know, kindred, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn Through North and South

Wonder, Love, and Praise #822

Through north and south and east and west May God's im-mor-tal name be
blessed: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Till
ev' - ry - where be - neath the sun, God's reign be - gins; God's will is



Words: from *Songs of Praise*, alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

The Gospel

Deacon or Presider
People

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (22:34-46).
Glory to you, O Christ.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Deacon or Presider
People

The Gospel of our Savior.
Praise to you, O Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Cameron Partridge

Silence

After the sermon, a bell will sound to mark a brief period of silence. The bell will sound a second time to mark the conclusion of this time.

The Nicene Creed

Deacon, Seminarian, or Presider

Together, let us join in saying the Nicene Creed.

***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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.*

Prayers of the People

Deacon, Seminarian, or Presider

Jesus promised “in my father’s house there are many dwelling places.” There is abundant room for all God’s children. God of all Creation, we bring our prayers before you.

Intercessor

For the universal church, that may we live the Gospel. Inspire church leaders and congregations to advocate for justice and peace.

Deacon, Seminarian or Presider reads the Anglican, Episcopal, Diocesan, & Parish cycles of prayer, inviting additional prayers.

In hope, we pray:

Help us to be good stewards of your creation.

For the world, for people living in the many war-torn regions, those struggling with the effects of climate change and natural disasters, and for those fleeing hardship and danger.

The Intercessor pauses for additional prayers.

In hope, we pray:

Help us to be good stewards of your creation.

Intercessor

For our divided nation. Help us to embrace the truth named in our nation's founding declaration, that all people are created equal. There is room in GOD'S house for all people.

Deacon, Seminarian, or Presider shares our communal prayers for justice and invites additional prayers.

In hope, we pray:

Help us to be good stewards of your creation.

Intercessor

For all who are sick, suffering, or in danger, named aloud or in your hearts.

Deacon, Seminarian, or Presider reads the names of those who have asked for prayers and invites additional prayers.

In hope, we pray:

Help us to be good stewards of your creation.

Intercessor

We remember with gratitude all those who have gone on before us, and whose lives continue to inspire us.

Deacon, Seminarian or Presider reads the names of those who have recently died and invites additional prayers.

Bring comfort to your people. In hope, we pray:

Help us to be good stewards of your creation.

Intercessor

For our St. Aidan's community, renewed in our commitment of hospitality with the new kitchen. May we be animated by the Holy Spirit to live in the love of Jesus Christ.

Deacon or Presider reads the names of those celebrating birthdays and invites additional prayers.

In hope, we pray:

Help us to be good stewards of your creation.

Deacon, Seminarian, or Presider

Mindful that in God's house there is always plentiful room, we pray in the name of Jesus. ***Amen.***

The Confession

Deacon or Presider Let us confess our sins against God and God's Creation.

A space of silence is kept.

All

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Presider

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

The Peace

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

You are invited to share a sign of peace or if you are on Zoom, unmute and greet each other in the name of Christ.

Announcements

Stewardship Reflection Br. Finnian Shannon

Offertory Prayer

Presider O God, may we cling wholeheartedly to you: whose tender touch and kindness, whose ever fresh remembrance and fragrance, whose radiant visage and clarity continually shares heavenly joy with us and with all the citizens of the heavenly city. *Amen.*

Offertory: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

The Hymnal 1982 #376

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

The Deacon, Seminarian, or Presider sets the table

The Liturgy of the Table

Presider God be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to God.***

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Presider

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God al - might - y,

ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:

cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be -

fore thee, which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.

Presider

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with Aidan and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon or Presider As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray,

All

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Mother, Father, Parent of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

The Fraction

The Presider breaks the bread and says,

Presider This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

People **Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

The Invitation

Lifting the bread and cup, the Presider invites the people, saying

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome at God's table.

This Altar belongs to God and all are welcome to partake, wherever you are on your journey of faith.

If you choose to not receive the bread and/or wine, you are also welcome to receive a blessing;

simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

The Bread and Wine are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven; The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

During Communion, those present via Zoom are encouraged to pray the following prayer for Spiritual Communion that we have shared together throughout the pandemic:

In union, O God, with your people at every altar of your Church, we offer you praise, giving thanks for your presence in the holy gifts of bread and wine. In our spatial distance we invite you to come spiritually into our hearts, nourishing and strengthening us as members of your body. Amen.

Communion: Let Us Break Bread Together

Lift Every Voice and Sing #152

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees).
2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh— Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh—

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All ***Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***

Healing Prayer

The people are invited to share a request for healing prayer.

You may make a request for yourself or on behalf of another. The Presider then offers a prayer.

Concluding Prayer of the Directions

Officiant

Lifting our hands up, O God in the heavens, we pray that you would deepen our connection to the sky above and the cosmos beyond, knowing that we are always united with you and all things.

All ***Renew us in your love.***

Officiant

Facing the palms of our hands toward the ground, Creator of the earth, we pray that you would teach us your life-giving ways so that we too can care for all creation as you do.

All ***Renew us in your love.***

Officiant

Placing our hands over our hearts, God of the heart, we give thanks for each other. May we remember to rise up as one for the good of all in need, remain open to learn from our struggles, and listen for the heartbeat of God in each other.

All ***Renew us in your love.***

Blessing

Presider

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, always walks with you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn: Gracious Spirit, Give Your Servants

Wonder, Love, and Praise #782

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,

cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,

peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in you

glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the

show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (B. 1944). Music: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991).

The Dismissal

Deacon or Presider
People

Let us go forth into all Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

SOURCES

- Please note: We affirm that God embraces all genders, even when the texts of our tradition refer to God with male/masculine language.
- The cover image: Cameron took these photos in August-October of 2022-2025.
- The Liturgy for Creation Season is from the resource “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration” which can be found online at https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/#_idTextAnchor010.
- The Opening Acclamation is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The Prayer of the Directions was adapted in 2018 by Cameron and Susan Spencer using a version of this prayer that St. Aidan’s used in 2017 as well as a version offered by the Rev’d Virginia Marie Rincon at the Diocese of California night at General Convention, July 9, 2018 in Austin, Texas. Cameron and Susan further updated it for our observance of Creation Season in 2020, 2021, 2024, and 2025.
- Psalm translation is from the *CSF Office Book* (Community of St. Francis, 1995).
- The Prayers of the People for the 2026 Creation Season were written by Doug Barnett with an emphasis on Plenty Room, our stewardship theme.
- The Eucharistic Prayer is Prayer 1 from *Enriching Our Worship I.*, pp. 57-59.
- The Post Communion Prayer is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- The adapted prayer for Spiritual Communion located in St. Augustine’s Prayer Book, published by Forward Movement Press which can be found online at <https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>.
- The Dismissal is from “Season of Creation: An Ecumenical Celebration.”
- All music is reproduced with permission under the auspices of OneLicense number A-721562, unless otherwise noted.

Serving St. Aidan’s

The Rev. Cameron Partridge, *Presider & Preacher*

The Rev. Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain, *Deacon*

Mike Stafford, *Seminarian*

Br. Finnian Shannon, *Stewardship Reflection*

Mileva Saulo Lewis, *Musician*

Anne Benninger, Sarah Glover, Lee Hammack, Jacqueline Lewey, Mileva Lewis, Janet Lohr, Paul Nocero,
Jim Oerther, Kateri Paul, Barbara Stevenson, Danielle Ushizima, & perhaps you!, *Choir*

Margie Wolcott, *In-Person Greeter*

Elaine Mannon, *Zoom Greeter*

Peter Fairfield / Margaret Tait, *Lectors*

Barbara Stevenson, *Prayers of the People*

Patricia Busk, *Eucharistic Minister*

Barbara Stevenson, *Altar Guild*

Patti & Micah, *Sound / Zoom*

Kateri Paul, *Bread Baker*

CoCo Lin, *Child Care*

Announcements

Today! New Jim Crow Anti-Racist Book Group, Sunday, October 25, 4:30 pm, via Zoom, (note the later start by 30 minutes). We'll be reading the first 5 parts (called chains by the author) of Ibram Kinde's new book – **Chain of Ideas: The Origins of our Authoritarian Age.** The book is new, but/and there seem to be plenty of copies at the SF Public Library. Please feel free to reach out to Deacon Margaret with any questions at mdyerc@stanford.edu.

Today! Music on the Hill Presents Cecilia Ensemble, Sunday, October 25, 2026, 7:30pm at St. Aidan's. Performing a lush proram of works for string quintets and sextet by Mozart, Brahms, and Schubert. Tickets: \$25.00. Email: mothmuse2@yahoo.com to reserve. A limited number of comp tickets will be available to St. Aidan's members. Contact Dave Frangquist for these dfrangquist@sonic.net.

Wrestling with the Scriptures meets every fourth Tuesday at 10:30 am (via Zoom). The next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 27.** Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org.

Save the Date: 1 November 2026, Shortly after the end of the 10 am Service

Guest Speakers: Reina Gaines & Day of Death Volunteer
End of Life Choices, California

A Closer Look at Medical Aid-In-Dying in California

On Sunday, 1 November the St. Aidan's End of Life Ministry (ELM) will be sponsoring another conversation in our series on Life Care Planning.

Over the last several years, the ELM team has sponsored several sessions about how one can influence the health care that they would like to receive as life is nearing an end. We've talked about advance directives, the types of life support and life sustaining options; their uses, key questions to ask, and disadvantages and advantages of use. Most recently we discussed Hospice and Palliative care as well as the End-of-Life Option that allows one, meeting certain criteria, to end their life – know in California as Medical Aid in Dying.

This session will be a more intimate discussion not only about the End of Life Option, the law but about the experience of someone who has accompanied those who have chosen this option.

As with our other programs, we'll be providing information so people can exercise their agency to make an informed decision.

We'll provide a light lunch. Please attend, in person or on ZOOM, to be curious and to learn.

Queer Chorus of San Francisco Presents "Queer as Folk Music"

Queer as Folk Music weaves together the music of queer singer-songwriters with folk and country genres to celebrate songs that tell the stories that the history books leave behind: songs of migration and belonging, resistance and resilience, love and loss.

Music by Dolly Parton, Joy Oladokun, Allison Russell, Brandi Carlile, Dunkan Skeik, and many others.

Friday November 6 at 7:30 PM.

Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street

For Tickets: <https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/qcsf/events/1933>

Men's Group: Saturday, November 7, 9-10:30 am, via Zoom. We will connect for prayer, study, and fellowship. All men are cordially invited. If you haven't received connection information by November 5, contact Dave Frangquist (frangquist@acm.org).

Our St. Aidan's Women's Spirituality Group will meet via zoom Saturday November 7th at 10:15. As before, we will have time for both checking in and personal sharing as well as time for spiritual growth. We are certainly open to formats and approaches such as reflections on a poem, scripture, narrative passage or another focus for our growth. We want our group to meet the needs and desires of those who participate. If you want to join us, and we hope you will, please contact Elaine Mannon at elaine@mannon.com to get the information for signing into our meeting.

Good News Gardening – Coming up Saturday, November 14th!

We'll continue with the second Saturday of the month at our usual 12:30-2 pm time and our next dates will be Nov 14, Dec. 12, etc. Please reach out to Margaret at mdyerc@stanford.edu with any questions.

San Francisco Deanery Pilgrimage - Join a walk in our San Francisco Deanery!

Solvitur ambulando – *It is solved by walking*. Saint Augustine of Hippo's words attest to the revelatory experience of being in motion. SF Deanery Pilgrimages offer opportunities to reengage this ancient wisdom in community. Join walkers beginning this fall on a faithful pathway through San Francisco's Episcopal churches and live into Saint Augustine's maxim.

At a time of social instability and separation, the ancient practice of pilgrimage can bring us together with opportunities for personal reflection and group discernment toward the healing we seek and the thriving God desires for us.

Four quarterly walks over the year are planned. Join one, part, or all of them. On each pilgrimage, a morning's walk brings walkers to one of four parish regions around the city. By the fourth walk, pilgrims will have had the opportunity to visit all the Episcopal congregations of San Francisco and will be welcomed and blessed at our diocesan cathedral.

The four Saturday walks (9 am to approximately 1 pm) are:

- ~~October 10, 2026: Central Parishes [Episcopal Priory of St. Francis, St. John's in the Mission, St. Gregory of Nyssa, Church of the Advent of Christ the King, and All Saints]~~
- **December 12, 2026: Northwestern Parishes**
- February 13, 2027: Southwestern Parishes
- April 17, 2027: Northeastern Parishes

Sign up and explore maps of the routes here: <https://gracecathedral.org/sf-deanery-pilgrimages/>

More Opportunities for Solidarity with Immigrants

Several local organizations offer opportunities to stand with immigrants facing Trump administration attacks.

Faith in Action(www.faithinactionba.org): Local branch of a national community-organizing group anchored in faith communities around the country. In the Bay Area they focus on housing and immigration.

Opportunities include:

- **Immigration Court.** Accompany immigrants to their court hearings. You'll need at least conversational Spanish, and you'll be trained before you get started. For more information and the sign-up link: www.faithinactionba.org/accompaniment.
- **Rapid Response Network (203) 666-4472:** Faith in Action operates the San Mateo County Rapid Response phone network, providing information for immigrants and their supporters in the whole Bay Area, not just San Mateo. Call the number:
 - If you or a loved one has been detained by ICE
 - If you learn that someone has been detained by immigration enforcement
 - If you see ICE activity in the community
 - If you need accompaniment at an ICE Check-In or court appearance
 - If you need support filling out your asylum paperwork within the first year of entering the country
 - If you think immigration enforcement is contacting you by phone call or text message

Immigration court demonstrations and vigils: Several groups maintain a presence outside the immigration court at 100 Montgomery in downtown SF. Here are a couple:

- **Interfaith Court Vigil** (www.im4humanintegrity.org/category/events/): Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday every week. Sponsored by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Click here to sign up: bit.ly/CourtVigilVolunteer.
- **Tuesday and Friday demonstrations:** Loosely organized, pretty confrontative demonstrations, called by Democratic Socialists of America and others.

Immigration Court Observers: The National Lawyers Guild trains non-lawyers to participate in observing and documenting what happens in immigration courts in S.F. Click here for more information: nlgsf.org/programs-committees/nlg-sfba-programs/immigration-justice-program/

Comprehensive action calendar: (www.actiontogetherwest.org/bayarea) A project that grew out of the 2016 Pantsuits Nation group, this is a very well-maintained and up-to-date calendar of resistance activities in the Bay Area.

St. Aidan's Gourmet Book Club

We resume meeting via zoom with LeeAnn DeSalles serving as our zoom master. She has set up a zoom link that will serve for all our meetings. If you would like help with zoom, please contact LeeAnn at leeanndesalles@comcast.net. If you would like to be on the Book Group's mailing list, please contact elaine@mannon.com

- **Monday, October 26, 2026 7:00 p.m.**
 - *A Man Without a Country* - by Kurt Vonnegut
A hilariously funny and razor-sharp collection of essays about art, modern technology, politics, men versus women, and the soul of America. Sometimes despairing but always searching and ultimately wise and compassionate. (160 pages – published 2005)
- **Monday, November 30, 2026 7:00 p.m.**
 - *Theo of Golden* - by Allen Levi
A story of the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. (399 pages)

Contemplative Prayer: Tuesday & Thursday from 8-9 AM via Zoom

We offer Contemplative prayer via Zoom. Contemplative Prayer is silent with the beginning and ending marked by a bell. You can practice meditation, silent prayer, journal, or otherwise enjoy the collective quiet. Thank you to Susan Spencer for anchoring this practice. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org.

Morning Prayer: Mon, Wed, Fri at 7:30 AM

We offer Morning Prayer in hybrid mode (at church and via Zoom) on Mondays and Wednesday, and on Fridays via Zoom only. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 6:30 PM via Zoom

We offer Evening Prayer via Zoom. Readings for the day are from the Episcopal Church's daily lectionary or calendar of saints, and the service includes a brief reflection time on the readings. Please feel free to reach out to the office for the Zoom access information: office@staidansf.org

Mask Policy: We respect the preference of anyone who feels safer by masking. We continue to monitor public health advisories and may modify our mask policy, as appropriate. Please pray for the health and safety of all our members and friends as we continue to navigate this challenging time.

To add an announcement to the weekly bulletin of the Flame, please send your edited text no later than 11:00 am Wednesday to office@staidansf.org

St. Aidan's Vestry

Susan Spencer, *Senior Warden*;
Roya Rettberg, *Junior Warden*
Dave Frangquist, *Treasurer*;
Margaret Tait, *Clerk*
Jan Adams, Gilbert Chavez, Janet Lohr,
Mary Pruyn, Margie Wolcott, Ray Wong

Staff e-mail addresses

Cameron: rector@staidansf.org
Cary: office@staidansf.org

Calendar for the Week of October 25, 2026

Sunday, October 25	Holy Eucharist, 8 AM (In-Person) & 10 AM (Hybrid) New Jim Crow Anti-Racist Book Group (via Zoom), 4:30 PM Music on the Hill Concert, 7:30 PM
Monday, October 26	Morning Prayer (Hybrid), 7:30 AM
Tuesday, October 27	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom), 8 AM Wrestling with the Scriptures (via Zoom), 10:30 AM
Wednesday, October 28	Morning Prayer (Hybrid), 7:30 AM Evening Prayer (via Zoom), 7 PM
Thursday, October 29	Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom), 8 AM Kaffeeklatsch (via Zoom), 3 PM
Friday, October 30	Morning Prayer (via Zoom), 7:30 AM Food Pantry, 1 PM
Saturday, October 31	

St. Aidan's Prayers

In Your Prayers, Please Remember:

In acknowledgment that St. Aidan's is located within the unceded ancestral land of the Yelamu tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone people, with gratitude for their ongoing relationship with this holy place.

In the Episcopal Church: For Sean our Presiding Bishop; for Julia, President of the House of Deputies, and for the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: For the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For Austin, our bishop; for the School for Deacons, the Archdeacons, all deacons of the diocese and their ministries, and those discerning a call to diaconal ministry.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer: For the Anti-Racism Committee.

For those with birthdays this week: Forrest, Sue, Glen, Stephanie.

For all striving for mental and emotional balance and wholeness, and for their families and friends.

For those who have asked for our prayers: André E., Ann C., ;Bill W., Carol-Ann, Charles, Chuck L., Cindi G., Dave P., Debbie C., Denise, Emily, Felicia F., Garry M., George C., Harry P., Jaime, Janice T., Jean W., Jelly J., Jenny M., Jill, Jim F., Jim O., Jodi F., Joe, Joelle, John, Judy B., Julie A., Ken E., Lucinda G., Lyle B., Lynne and Meg S., Margarita, Marc L., Mark, Matthew G., Mercedes, Michaela, Milo R., Mina Marie, Patricia, Patty, Peter G., Ping, Rocky V. and Ruth S., Ron B., Stephanie M., Steve E., Tawanda, Tony F., Tony L., Vicky, Zakaria E.

For our ongoing work against intersecting forms of oppression, particularly racism and transphobia, and in affirmation of human dignity.

For our work in the world in our daily lives and for the ministries of the Friday Food Pantry and Diamond Diners.

For our congregation as we embrace our call to practice sanctuary: may we commit ourselves to prayer, education, and support for immigrants to this country and for all who are estranged, excluded, or threatened in 21st century America. We pray in thanksgiving for the numerous gifts our refugee and immigrant siblings have brought, and continue to bring, to this country.

For all who are struggling in this time of intensified injustice and polarization in our country and around the world: for strengthened relationships and deepened commitment to our common life and the well-being of our planet.

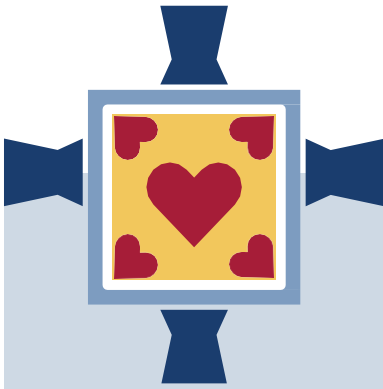
For those who have recently died: Sharon Martinas, Pat Kleinberg, Chandru Murthi, Jessica Stevenson, Carol Bertaut, Kate Murphy, Anna Yang, Marilyn Whitcher, Albert Tam, The Rev. Jan Cazden, Emily Hopkins, & Thales, Vanessa and Augusto Ushizima.

To place a name on our prayer list, please contact the church office at 415-285-9540, ext. 3 or office@staidansf.org. Names of the living are printed by first name and will be kept on the prayer list for four weeks. To keep someone on the list for longer, please notify the office.



St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

101 Gold Mine Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131
www.staidansf.org (415) 285-9540



Questions for Reflection:

So who's missing from your table?
Is there space at your table or do you need to add another in response to God's generosity and abundance?



The Rev. Debra Q. Bennett is rector of the Church of our Saviour, Akron and is past-president of the board of TENS.



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP

Plenty Good Room

There's Always Room for One More

In our household when I was growing up, and it is still true today, there was always room for one more in our home and at our table. It was not uncommon to awaken and find someone asleep on our sofa – whether an old friend of the family who just happened by or a family acquaintance who was experiencing a challenging time in their life. It could even have been the children of one of our upstairs neighbors who were experiencing conflict in the family. My parents opened our home to our schoolmates to keep them from going to a shelter while things were resolved with their parents. We shared our room and a space at our table to accommodate three additional guests. No matter the season there was always room at the Bennett Inn, there were loaves and fishes, and there was always plenty good room at our table.

Praying shapes believing and practice not only gets you to Carnegie Hall, it also makes perfect. 'You give them something to eat.' Jesus' words – an admonition to some an invitation to others – we get to embody in table fellowship where all are treated equally and all are fed. This way of being, this way of discipleship, this spirit of generosity and compassion was modeled for us by our family, in our church, and at our babysitter's home where no child was a stranger and tables were set in the eat-in kitchen and railroad length hallway and Sunday morning we were all given our envelopes with a dollar enclosed for the collection plate (if we didn't already have one). There was always room for one more and enough to share. There was plenty good room. Even now at our family gatherings we prepare for the unknown guest who may be invited to share our table.

A spirit of generosity and abundance finds its root in the beatitudes, in the story of the walk to Emmaus, in the wedding feast at Cana, and in the commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus made space for the vulnerable, the marginalized, the poor, and the list could go on ending with all of us. There was plenty good room at his table. When we respond to God's generosity in kind, there will always be enough, there will always be loaves and fishes, and there will always be plenty good room.