



Palmer Hall Chapel

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi ☙ Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist: Rite Two and Blessing of the Animals
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☙ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to the Palmer Hall service

We are delighted you are here. Wherever you might be on your faith journey, we hope your experience here will strengthen and affirm you. We are sure that your presence among us today strengthens others, and we welcome you to join in everything that St. Stephen's offers. Every Sunday, we offer several different services of worship (at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m., and 5:30 and 8 p.m.), each with its own character. At 9 a.m., two services are happening simultaneously—one in the main church, and this one which takes place in Palmer Hall Chapel.

The Palmer Hall service for some feels especially welcoming to families, particularly those with babies and children. Both of the 9 a.m. services—this one, and the one in the main church—include important roles for children, and people of all ages are welcome at any service. In Palmer Hall, our worship space includes a “soft space.” This is an area with a rug, floor cushions, and children's books where children can move a bit more freely and comfortably than they can in rows of seating. Please accompany your child to the soft space if and when they want to visit it; this helps us ensure the safety and comfort of our whole community.

Both of the 9 a.m. services include Holy Eucharist. All are welcome at the altar in this place. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to intinct, touching the edge of the bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms on the front of your chest. Children who have been baptized are welcome to receive communion. The important thing is that you know God welcomes you and that this church welcomes you. Please come back often.

Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

Hymn 554 'Tis the gift to be simple

Sung by all, standing.

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the val-ley of love and delight.
When true sim-plic-i-ty is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to
turn, turn, will be our de-light till by turn-ing, turn-ing we come round right.

Opening Prayer

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe, who created living creatures to fill the skies, the earth, and the seas.
People **How wonderful are the works of your hands.**
Leader Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe, who creates animals and invites human beings to learn and live with them.
People **How wonderful are the works of your hands.**
Leader Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe, who gives us animals who can work alongside us in fruitful labor.
People **How wonderful are the works of your hands.**
Leader Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe, who for the sake of our comfort also gives us animals to be our companions.
People **How wonderful are the works of your hands.**
Leader Blessed are you, O Lord of the universe, that you have given animals to share in the redemption of creation, in the fullness of time, when shall all be one in Christ.
People **How wonderful are the works of your hands.**

The Collect of the Day

Holy Women, Holy Men, page 623

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.**

The Gospel Song

This little light of mine

traditional Spiritual

Sung by all, standing. Following the Gospel, all remain standing and repeat verse 1.



1. This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit-tle light of mine,
2. Je - sus_ gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine. Je - sus_ gave it to me,
3. Ev-'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine. Ev-'ry - where I go,



I'm gon - na let it shine. This lit - tle light of mine,
I'm gon - na let it shine. Je - sus_ gave it to me,
I'm gon - na let it shine. Ev - 'ry - where I go,



I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

The Gospel Luke 12:13-21 *Please remain standing.*
Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

The Blessing of the Animals

The clergy will move among the people and their pets offering the following or a similar prayer:

(Name of pet), may God bless you and watch over you and over those who love and care for you. May you have joy in your life together, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People *Please stand.*

Celebrant God has promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith; therefore, let us pray.
Lord God, to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing. For our brother the sun, who is our day and who brings us the light, who is radiant in great splendor;
People **Praised be our Lord.**
Leader For our sister the moon, and for the stars, which you have set clear and lovely in heaven;
People **Praised be our Lord.**
Leader For our brother the wind, and for air and clouds, calm skies and all weather;
People **Praised be our Lord.**
Leader For our sister water, who serves us and is humble and precious;
People **Praised be our Lord.**
Leader For our brother fire, by whom you light up the night, who is warming and glowing; mighty and strong,
People **Praised be our Lord.**
Leader For our mother earth, who sustains and keeps us, and brings forth fruit, and flowers of many colors, and grass;
People **Praised be our Lord.**
Leader For all the creatures that breathe, swim, crawl, run, fly, and have life;
People **We thank you, O God.**
Leader For the animal companions in our lives and for the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets;
People **We thank you, O God.**
Leader For those pets who have died, and for those who miss them;
People **We pray to you, O God.**
Leader Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends these animals. Make us to be true friends of all your creatures and so to share in the blessings of the merciful. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

The Book of Common Prayer, page 360

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift online or in an offering plate. To make your offering electronically, scan this code with your smart phone and follow the prompts, or text STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



Offertory Anthem Most High, omnipotent, good Lord text: St. Francis of Assisi; music: Calvin Hampton

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,
to thee be ceaseless praise outpoured,
and blessing without measure.

From thee alone all creatures came;
no one is worthy thee to name.

My Lord be praised by brother sun
who through the skies his course doth run,
and shines in brilliant splendour;
with brightness he doth fill the day,
and signifies thy boundless sway.

My Lord be praised by sister moon
and all the stars, that with her soon
will point the glittering heavens.
Let wind and air and cloud and calm
and weathers all, repeat the psalm.

By sister water be thou blessed,
most humble, useful, precious, chaste;
be praised by brother fire;
jocund is he, robust and bright,
and strong to lighten all the night.

By mother earth my Lord be praised;
governed by thee she hath upraised
what for our life is needful.

Sustained by thee, through every hour,
she bringeth forth fruit, herb, and flower.

My Lord be praised by those who prove
in free forgivingness their love,
nor shrink from tribulation.
Happy, who peaceably endure;
with thee, Lord, their reward is sure.

For death our sister, praised be,
from whom no one alive can free.
Woe to the unprepared!
But blest be they who do thy will
and follow thy commandments still.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord,
to thee be ceaseless praise outpoured,
and blessing without measure.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee,
and serve in great humility.

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Old 100th

Musical notation for the presentation hymn, consisting of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise
him a - bove, ye heavenly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

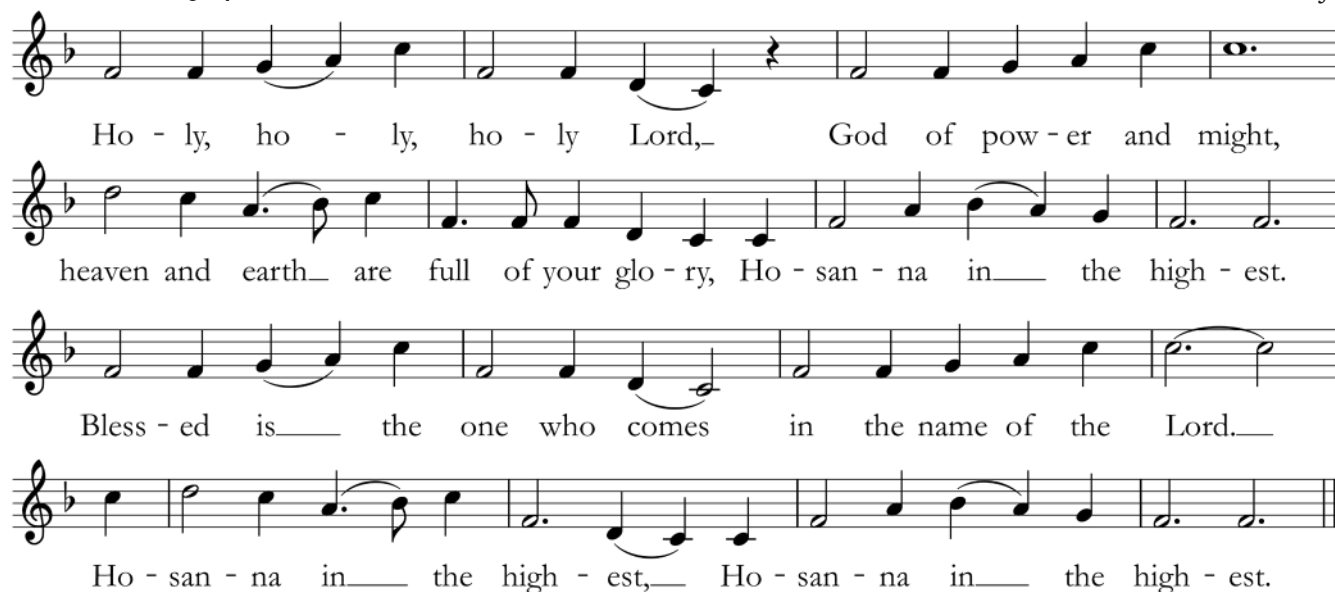
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

Land of Rest



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Blessed Stephen; Blessed Mary, Mother of God; and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

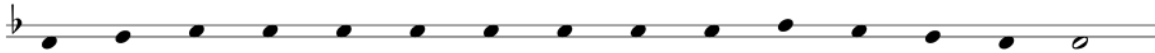
Celebrant and People

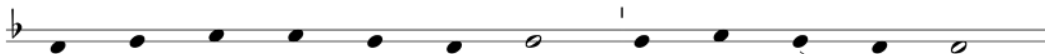
Our Father, who art in heaven,	as we forgive those
hallowed be thy Name,	who trespass against us.
thy kingdom come,	And lead us not into temptation,
thy will be done,	but deliver us from evil.
on earth as it is in heaven.	For thine is the kingdom,
Give us this day our daily bread.	and the power, and the glory,
And forgive us our trespasses,	for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Prayer Book, page 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Cantor 
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

All 
There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Invitation

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Communion at the altar (standing). If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant	Let us pray.	<i>Please stand.</i>
All	Loving God, we give you thanks	
	for restoring us in your image	
	and nourishing us with spiritual food	
	in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.	
	Now send us forth	
	a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;	
	that we may proclaim your love to the world	
	and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.	

The Blessing Song

Go now in peace

Sung by all.

Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you,

everywhere, everywhere you may go.



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
2. Great rush-ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heav'ns a -
3. Swift flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
4. Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless-ings on our



sing: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
loft, O ——— praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
way, O ——— praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flow'rs and



sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gent - ly gleams,
morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:

Refrain



O ——— praise him, O ——— praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

Leader

Go in peace. Remember the poor and be kindly affectioned one to another.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony

ASSISTING: The Rev. John Jenkins

MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choristers, Robert McCormick, *director* and *pianist*



Reflection Questions

Today we celebrate St. Francis of Assisi, a gentle soul who loved animals, nature, and simple living. In St. Francis' honor, today we bless the animals we love. In our Gospel story, Jesus tells a parable about a rich man who stored up many crops for himself. Though he was wealthy, God called the rich man a fool for only worrying about his treasures on earth. Instead, people who follow Jesus are called to be "rich toward God."

- What does it mean to be rich toward God?
- What are your treasures on earth?
- St. Francis gave away his money and belongings to live a simple life. Can you imagine giving away all your belongings? What would life be like then?

The Parish Prayer List

Loretta Albertis, Kay Alley, Leilani Allwine, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Elizabeth Bannerman, Ben Barbot, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Linda Bennett, Christine Boeteger, Emma Bolduc, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Frances Caldwell, John Caperton, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Michael Click, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, Shirley Crim, Lake Curry, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Rhonda Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, William Everett, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Vishal Iab Gunti, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, David Harrell, Emma Hassmer, Katie Hellebush, Trey Harrington, Dan Hill, Ron Hunt, Anna Hurdle, Ginny Moncure Jamerson, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Charles Johnson, Charleigh Jones, Lena Jones, David Kean, Jane Kelly, Brian Kemp, Linda Lewis, Eva Lindsay, Ashley Loughan, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Frank Maloney, Barbara Mathison, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Morgan McCall, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, Tina Millner, Susan Minyard, Lee W. Mumford, Shelby Nichols, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Pauline O'Neill, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ivan Peramas, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Lyn Presson, Alma Price, Jamey Price, Julia Putney-Brandt, Brick Quinn, Jennifer Reed, Luke Robertson, Kaley Rosenthal, Aleta Richards, Emily Robinson, Ryan Rohadfox, David Ruffin and family, Bette Shiflett, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Ross Southward, Josh Spain, Aaron Spicer, Margie Spicer, Regena Stith, Beth Thomas, Bruce Thomas, Margaret Thompson, Brian Trollope, Crystal Vines, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Heather Walker, Suzanne Wallace, Judy Ward, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Steve Wilson, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Bill Wright, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died**, especially *Susan Porter and Calvin Sydnor Winn*. **For the blessings of this life**, especially for *the birth of Richard Bland Lee VII to Meredith and Richard Bland Lee VI*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter, Mason and Claire Mairead, Carlee and Robert Rhoton, and Coleman and Jessica Stewart. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, and the people they serve in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the *Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil*. **For ReWork Richmond**. **For an end to gun violence**. **For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Nigeria, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. **For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service**: CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn, and Caroline Finn. *Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week. In order to keep our prayer list current and facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the office or email Kitty Ball at kball@ststephensRVA.org.*

The Book of Common Prayer by Church Publishing Incorporated. Common Prayer for Children and Families by Church Publishing Incorporated, 2019. Holy Women, Holy Men by Church Publishing Incorporated, Rite Planning, Copyright©1998 by Church Publishing Incorporated, All rights reserved; from Copyright©1977; used by permission. Prayers adapted from those written by Rev. Dr. Barb Hedges-Goettl, used with permission. Prayers adapted from Christine Sine, used with permission. All applicable music reprinted under OneLicense #A-710911. Eucharistic Prayers by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher (Eerdmans, 2016)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☞ 6000 Grove Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 ☞ 804.288.2867 ☞ ststephensRVA.org