

The heavens
the *glory* declare
of *God.*



PSALM 19:1 (KJV)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
(Serving the Tuskegee Community since 1912)
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**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
(Proper 14)**

August 9, 2026

MORNING PRAYER – RITE 11
Self-Guided Prayer

HYMNAL

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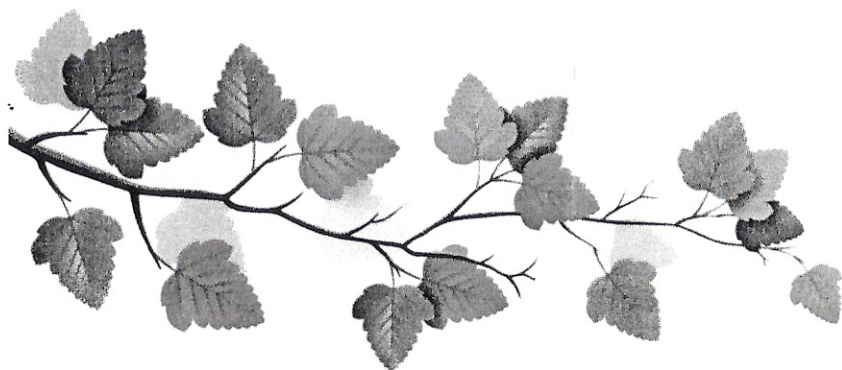
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ANNOUNCEMENTS: See inside bulletin

Closing Hymn

Dismissal



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The Christian Gathering continues after this service with fellowship and refreshments in the undercroft.

PLEASE JOIN US!!!!!!

August 16 - A Parishioner



11 PENTECOST

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 14



Revised Common Lectionary
TRACK TWO

Sunday, August 9, 2026

COLLECT

Traditional

GRANT TO US, LORD, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot exist without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

GRANT TO US, LORD, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

ELIJAH CAME to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound

of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Refrain

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Psalm 85:8-13 from the Book of Common Prayer

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, * for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him. | 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, * that his glory may dwell in our land. |
| | 10 Mercy and truth have met together; * righ- |

- teousness and peace
have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up
from the earth, * and
righteousness shall look
down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed
grant prosperity, * and
our land will
yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go
before him, * and peace
shall be a pathway for
his feet.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

MOSES WRITES concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

JESUS MADE THE DISCIPLES get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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BLB0312/300720-11

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, August 10, 2026

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Friday, August 14, 2026

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Memorial Service-1 pm

Sunday, August 16, 2026

11 a.m.

- Morning Prayer in person, ZOOM

NEWS FROM AROUND THE EPISCOPAL
& ANGLICAN DIOCESES

Saturday, August 15, 2026, Jonathan Daniels and the Martyrs of the Alabama Pilgrimage, 1 S. Washington St., Hayneville, AL

Friday, September 11, 2026, at 5 pm and September 12, 2026, at 4 pm, Clergy and Lay Leader of Color Retreat, Camp McDowell. Registration is available on-line at dioala.org

See www.anglicannews.org for the latest Anglican Communion News

T.U. EVENTS (www.tuskegee.edu)

COMMUNITY EVENTS (Auburn, Montgomery, Tuskegee)

All Macon County Day, August 29-30, 2026, downtown-on-the-square, Tuskegee: parade, entertainment, fellowship, food vendors.

***Special Election, Macon County, Tuesday, August 11, 2026 - VOTE**

2026 Football Schedule – Tuskegee U:

August 30 - Red Tails Classic, T.U. vs U. of West AL, Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

September 24 – T.U. vs Benedict, HOME (Thursday night-6 pm)

October 3 – T.U. vs Morehouse, Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

October 17 – T.U. vs Albany State, HOME

November 7 – Homecoming, T.U. vs Miles, HOME

November 26 – Turkey Day Game, T.U. vs Alabama State, Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

2026 Football Schedule – Auburn U.

September 12 – Auburn vs Southern Mississippi, HOME

September 19 – Auburn vs Florida, HOME

September 26 – Homecoming, Auburn vs. Vanderbilt, HOME

October 24 – Auburn vs LSU, HOME

November 7 – Auburn vs Arkansas, HOME

PRAYER LIST

CHRISTINA ANDERSON
CAROLYN BLAND*
STEPHANIE BOSWELL

MARIAN GARMON*

THOMASINE BRAYE
THOMAS BRAYE*
JAMES BRAYE
REBECCA LYN CARTER
CURT CARTER, SR*

MARIO LIGHTFOOTE*

CRAIG POWELL

CHARLES M. CRANK, II
PRESTON CRAYTON

JULIUS MYHAND, JR.

CLEMENT SCOTT

DAVID NGAWA**

MARTHA OSGERBY

ANNA C. OWENS

TUNESHA SMITH

ANGELICA P. SNOWDEN

LUCENIA DUNN*
SHANNON DIXON
TEDDY DOWDY*

YOLANDA P. SEAWRIGHT

DARRYL SEAWRIGHT

BRENDA D. ROBINSON*

ANITRA FULLER
ROBERT FRAZIER

LISA TECZAR

CHARLES THOMPSON**

LLOYD WILLIAMS*

E. DRAKE WHITELAW

DIANE KENNEY*

MARGARET 'KATIE' JONES
THERON JONES

*Local Parishioners

** Shut-In Parishioners

THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; Seminarians entering the first year of study; St. Mary's on the Highlands, Birmingham; St. Mary's, Childersburg; St. Mary's, Jasper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

- **ARMED FORCES**: Please pray for our service men and women stationed in the U.S. and overseas, especially, Elijah Barber, DeRitha Marbory B. Green (retiring), Sam and Margaret Gunn Bunton, and Shavon Marbory Hogan.
- **PRAYERS**: Continue to pray for those on the Prayer List, friends, family and all humankind afflicted by disease, war and famine. Pray for peace!
- **REMINDER**: Please continue to furnish our Food Basket with non-perishable food items (located on the ground floor of the Education Building).
- **NEW**: The link for the Sunday ZOOM Companion Service can be reached by dialing: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 882 671 9532, Passcode 008810 or click on your email invite. Mark your calendar for the next Holy Eucharist Service – in person on *Sunday, September 6, 2026 at 11 am.*
- **NEW**: Michael 'Mike' Robinson transitioned from his earthly life on Saturday, July 4, 2026. A Memorial Service is scheduled for August 15, 2026, at 1 pm, at St. Andrew's. Please keep Brenda D. Robinson and the Robinson Family in your prayers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY!!

August 1 – *James & June Samuel*

1 - Carolyn Bland

2 – William E. Gunn

7 - Titus Smith

22 - Deborah Richie

22 – *George & Tiffane Bulls*

26 - *Lewis & Carolyn Bland*

26 - E. Drake Whitelaw



Pentecost 11 (A) – Proper 14

[RCL]: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b, Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

To Have Dominion

Today's Gospel features one of the most iconic of all Christian scenes: Christ coming to the disciples upon the waves. Jesus walking on water has become almost a cultural cliché; it graces everything from ancient icons to dollar store postcards. In this passage, however, the disciples do not find our Lord walking upon the sea a comforting image: instead, they are terrified! The winds have picked up, the water is choppy, and when the disciples see their teacher striding across the rollers, they interpret this as highly unnatural rabbinical behavior—as spooky supernatural activity—and in classic Scooby-Doo fashion, they shout, “G-g-g-ghost!!” The problem here is that Jesus commanding the waves to be firm so that he can walk to the boat is not at all otherworldly: seen from the Biblical perspective, that is the most natural thing in the world for a human to do. The disciples simply haven't yet realized what a true human is.

In the Book of Genesis, humans are created for one purpose: to be the image and likeness of God, and as such, they are given dominion over Creation. Contrary to popular interpretation, dominion is not freedom to chop down all of the forests and strip-mine the land for maximum profit. Nor is dominion a byword for being good stewards of the environment.

Dominion is a state in which the whole of creation lives in harmony with the will of God. This dominion appears in iconography of the saints: when Saint Benedict is pictured with the raven who once saved his life, or when Saint Jerome is painted next to the lion said to have become his friend and protector. This idea of dominion is the source of C.S. Lewis' vision of the innate veneration the animals of Narnia pay to the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve.

But to us—not to mention to the terrified disciples in the boat—it all sounds fantastical, like the stuff of a fable or a dream. This is not because we are infinitely wise beings, capable of evaluating the mystery of God, but because we have lost a part of our essential humanity.

In the narrative of the Fall, we see Adam and Eve turn away from God, away from their true nature, and towards nothingness. Our primary job description as humans—the essence of our humanity—is being the image and likeness of God. To be a human means to be a living vision of the peace of God, of the goodness of God, of the love of God. Those around you should look upon you and think, “how amazingly kind she is, how wildly accepting he is, what an oasis of peace they are.” To see a human being should be to glimpse a vision of God’s holiness. While this is sometimes the case, the vast majority of us spend our time preoccupied by our own little goals and projects; running from our fears, chasing our ambitions. To the extent that this core purpose of our human nature is diminished, we become less and less human.

In today's Gospel, Peter and the other disciples are focused on keeping their boat ship shape so that they can continue netting enough fish to feed their families, to pay the mortgage on the boat, and perhaps put a little away for retirement in an ancient world 401k – otherwise known as a mattress. Suddenly Peter sees the one true human walking on the waves and cries out, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water!”

Why would Peter say such a thing? Is he trying to test Jesus’s reality? Is he begging to share the novel experience of stepping across the sea? What if this is neither a test nor the expression of curiosity, but is instead a plea for Jesus to return Peter to his own full humanity? What if Peter’s cry means, “Lord let me share this dominion, let me share your life as a vision of grace, a font of goodness, the image of the love of God.”

And what happens? Jesus tells Peter to join him in commanding the waves! While having dominion over water is impressive, this is something like a gateway miracle. What would it be like to have dominion not just only over something as basic as an unruly sea, but over something really uncontrollable—like your anger? What would life be like if no one ever had the power to ruin your day, to drive you crazy, because you were so full of love; even for those cutting you off in traffic and shouting at you from the TV screen.

It’s impressive to have dominion over leprosy, but what would it be like to have dominion over greed and covetousness? What would it be like to have the idol of wealth broken to such an extent that you could actually give to all those who ask of you; that when someone tried to take your cloak you would be quick to offer him your tunic as well? What if you had perfect dominion over your addiction to pride and power, to vanity and impressing others, dominion over addictions to shopping or pornography, to fear, to being judgmental? What if you could simply rebuke them and have them disappear?

What would happen if we, like Peter, were boldly to request such astonishing powers? Just the same thing: Jesus would command us to come to Him. When we ask for Jesus’s help, he actually gives us

the grace to overcome, not just petty things like winds and seas, but these utterly overpowering forces as well.

There are times when we may experience this grace. We might be overwhelmed by compassion for another, forgiveness of our enemies or extravagant generosity... but then we get scared, we close off, we say, "I can't just forgive that monster!" "I can't just give away \$10,000!" "I can't walk on water!" And we begin to sink.

But here is the secret: You can jump back into the boat, you can say that you've gotten over your weird religious phase and are back to normal. Or in the midst of your doubts, in the midst of your fears, you can stay in the water.

There you can cry out with Peter, "Lord save me!" You can cry out to the one who is not only the perfect human, but God incarnate, "Lord make me a vessel of your peace! Lord forgive me my trespasses only to the extent that I forgive those who trespass against me. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on me!"

And what will Jesus do? Reach out and grab your arm. He will hold you above the waves when you can't walk upon them.

Ask a Christian in Alcoholics Anonymous what it's like to allow Jesus to do the impossible through you.

Ask a former slave ship Captain like the Rev'd John Newton what it's like to turn your back on your former life to become an anti-slavery crusader.

Either person will be quick to tell you of the amazing grace with which Jesus imbues your life when you ask for it.

But it takes faith to step out of the boat. It takes faith to be kind to those who are unkind to you. It takes faith to give away your money, your patience, your security. It takes faith to follow Jesus.

And this is why, like the disciples in the boat, we must bow down and worship Jesus. We must allow him to have dominion over us, we must come before his altar, hear his word, receive his body and blood, and allow him to send us into the world to do his will.

Bertie Pearson serves as rector of *St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.* He also produced the popular podcast *The History of Christianity with Bertie Pearson*. This podcast is an exploration of the ideas and themes which continue to shape the Christian faith, and is available on Spotify, iTunes, and wherever fine podcasts are distributed. Before his current parish, Bertie served both Spanish and English-language churches in Austin and San Francisco, played drums in the band *Poolside*, and toured as a DJ. He now lives a much more sedate life with his wife, Dr. Rabel Pearson, their two children, a small room full of dusty records, and a very goodhearted Australian Shepard named Ida.



Sermons that Work and Bible Studies that Work are a joint offering of Forward Movement and The Office of Communication at The Episcopal Church.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/bible-study/>