The LORD...will speak peace unto his people.

PSALM 85:8 (KJV)



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

(Serving the Tuskegee Community since 1912)
Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. H. Mawande Mzongwana
701 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee, Alabama 36088
Phone: 334-727-3210 ***www.standrewstuskegee.com***

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 25) **October 25, 2026**

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II
Self-Guided Prayer

	HYMNAL	**PRAYER BOOK**
	Musical Prelude:	
	Opening Hymn:	
	THE WORD OF GOD	**76**
	Opening Sentences	
	General Confession & Absolution	**79**
	THE LITURGY OF THE WORD	
**	The Collect of the Day	**355**
**	The First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	
**	Psalm: 1	
**	The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	
	Sequence Hymn:	
**	**THE GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22**	
	THE MEDITATION:	
	www.episcopalchurch.org/sermons	
	The Apostles' Creed	**96**
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	Collect for Sundays	**100**
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	Collect for Guidance	

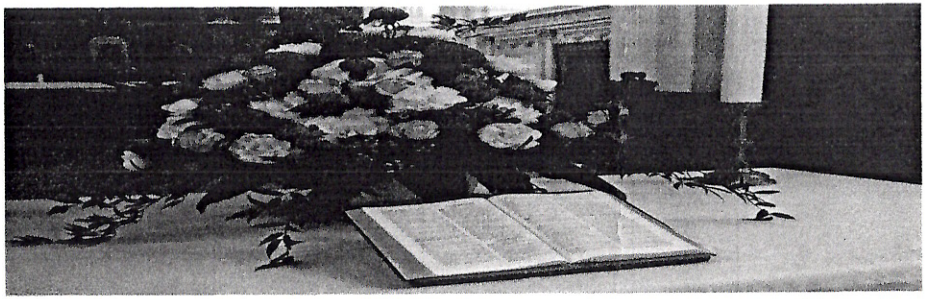
** *Refer to Insert in Bulletin*

OFFERTORY
Presentation: Doxology: *Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING	**101**
A Prayer of Chrysostom)	**101**
Versicle and Response	**102**
Closing Sentence and Scripture	**102**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (See inside Bulletin)

Closing Hymn:
The Dismissal



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

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

PLEASE JOIN US!!!!!!

November 1 - A Parishioner

22 PENTECOST

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 25

Revised Common Lectionary
TRACK TWO

Sunday, October 25, 2026

COLLECT

Traditional

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

THE LORD SPOKE to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Refrain

Happy are they whose delight is in the law of the Lord.

Psalm 1 from the Book of Common Prayer

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, * nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, * and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; * everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; * they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, * nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, * but the way of the wicked is doomed.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

YOU YOURSELVES KNOW, brothers and sisters, 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, October 26, 2026

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

.

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Fri. October 30, 2026

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Sunday, November 1, 2026

11 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, ZOOM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY!!

October

7 – Tiffannee Bulls
8 – Lonnie & Carol Smith
9 – Levy & Shari Kelly
16 – Quentin E. Gaillard, Jr.
21 – Darry & Yolanda Seawright
31 - Lonnie Smith

NEWS FROM AROUT THE EPISCOPAL & ANGLICAN DIOCESES

***November 16-19, 2026,* 'Magnify, A Women's Justice Retreat.' Alabama represents not only struggles but also the powerful witness of unsung saints. Join this group meeting at Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, AL, registration is available online at www.dioala.org**

196th Diocesan Convention, *January 28-30, 2027*, Birmingham, AL. St. Andrew's Delegates will be selected at the Annual Fall Parish Meeting, Sunday, *November 1, 2026*.

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

November 1 - 8th Homecoming Week-"A Renaissance Family Affair," some of the events are listed below:

6th - State of the University, 11am
7th – Homecoming Parade, 9am
7th – Homecoming Game, 2pm
8th – Homecoming Convocation, 9:30am

COMMUNITY EVENTS (Auburn, Montgomery, Tuskegee)

Harriott II Riverboat Cruises, Montgomery, Friday Night Dinner Cruises, Saturday Getaway Cruise and Sunday Evening Blues Cruise – until November 28, 2026.

VOTE- Primary Election, Tuesday, November 3, 2026!

2026 Football Schedule – Tuskegee U.
November 7 – Homecoming, T.U. vs Miles, 2:30 pm, HOME
November 26 – Turkey Day Game, T.U. vs Alabama State U., Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

2026 Football Schedule – Auburn U.
November 7, Auburn vs Arkansas, 11 am, HOME
November 21 – Auburn vs Samford, 2:30 pm, HOME
November 28 – Iron Bowl, Auburn vs Alabama, Tuscaloosa

PRAYER LIST

CHRISTINA ANDERSON

STEPHANIE BOSWELL

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

CHARLES M. CRANK, II
PRESTON CRAYTON

LUCENIA DUNN*
SHANNON DIXON
TEDDY DOWDY*

ANITRA FULLER
ROBERT FRAZIER

MARGARET 'KATIE' JONES
THERON JONES

DIANE KENNEY*
JULIUS MYHAND. JR.

MARIAN GARMON*

MARIO LIGHTFOOTE*

DAVID NGAWA**
MARTHA OSGERBY
ANNA C. OWENS
CLEMENT SCOTT
TUNESHA SMITH
ANGELICA SNOWDEN
YOLANDA P. SEAWRIGHT
DARRYL SEAWRIGHT
BRENDA D. ROBINSON*
LIONEL B. RICHIE
LISA TECZAR
CHARLES THOMPSON**

E. DRAKE WHITELAW

*Local Parishioners
** Shut-In Parishioners

THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; All Saints, Aliceville; All Saints, Birmingham; Episcopal Place, Birmingham; St. Martin's-in-the-Pines, Birmingham.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

- **ARMED FORCES: Please pray for our service men and women stationed in the U.S. and overseas, especially, Sam and Margaret Gunn Bunton, Shavone Marbory Hogan, and Elijah Barber.**
- **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).**
- **REMINDER: 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. The next in-person service will be Sunday, November 1, 2026.**
- **UPDATE: The elevator repair is almost complete. Thank you for your patience.**
- **NEW: *2027 Pledge Letters and Forms* have been mailed. If you did not receive one, please contact the Parish Secretary (Denise Dixon). The *deadline* to return forms is November 1, 2026.**
- **UPCOMING EVENTS: *Annual Fall Parish Meeting* will take place *Sunday, November 1*, following Holy Eucharist, in the Undercroft. During the meeting the floor will be open to receive Nominations to join the 2027 Vestry.**
- **NOVEMBER EVENTS: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church and Tuskegee University will once again join together and participate in *Samaritan Purse Shoebox Ministry.* Collection week begins November 1, 2026. Shoeboxes will be mailed November 16-23. You can donate money and/or fill a shoebox for a girl or boy. See Denise Dixon for information.**

Additional announcements are listed inside the bulletin.

SERMONS THAT WORK

Pentecost 22A (Proper 25)

[RCL] Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Gotcha Questions

Children learn at an early age to measure success by how well they succeed at tests. You are taught to study hard and to engage in class discussions along the way, seeking the necessary insights to excel in your coursework. But often there is one kid in the class—whom others might tag as the "class clown"—who asks the questions not to get the answers, but to get a specific reaction from the instructor. Sometimes the questioner knows the correct answer; other times the conversation is designed purely to provoke a response in the one being questioned.

We see echoes of this familiar scene in the 22nd chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The Pharisees and the Sadducees take turns asking Jesus what they believe are stumping questions. Are they looking to provoke a response—to anger Jesus? Or are they trying to make him pause, unable to immediately provide an appropriate answer? Consider the very detailed (and rather ludicrous) question inventing a scenario involving remarriage unlikely ever to be tested: who would a woman would belong to if she remained childless through marriages with seven brothers? In a challenge to Jesus's ideas about the afterlife, they dream up a scenario that has little bearing on how to either live well on earth, much less much wisdom to hare about what life will look like in the great beyond.

Now while all this was going on, the Pharisees were looking on. And then they turn to Jesus with the toughest "gotcha" question of all, which they have designated an attorney in their midst to ask. His question: "Teacher which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Perhaps they expected Jesus to take a while, to ponder all of the Jewish laws, to think through all the rites and rituals observed in their community, before giving them a well-thought-out answer. We can only imagine their surprise when Jesus instead immediately responded with this statement, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." He continued with further instruction "This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the laws and the prophets." The answer was resolute: No hesitation and no caveats were offered by Jesus. That must have silenced the crowd.

These two commandments offer as much a guiding light for contemporary Christian followers today as they did the moment Jesus uttered them to the Pharisees and Sadducees.

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We might spend our entire lives trying to find answers to all sorts of profound questions. Some questions will require great theological reflection, like: What is the meaning of life? Or: Where is God in the midst of floods, storms, fires, and natural disasters? Why does God allow gun violence or the ongoing concerns facing so many around immigration?

There are no easy answers to these questions. Some questions might demand a great deal of study. Other no amount of study seems able to answer. Wisdom, perhaps, suggests an acceptance that we are not privy to all the answers.

And even when we do have the answers…. Well, it's not that simple, is it?

When Jesus describes the most important commandment—loving God with all your heart, soul and mind—it seems straightforward. Jesus calls us to put God ahead of everything and everyone.

But will there be challenges to living out the greatest commandment? Without a doubt!

For instance, how do we follow and trust God when we are confronted with pain, suffering, and loss? How do we lean into God in those particular moments, believing that we serve a God who will provide the strength and comfort we need, even if we do not like the outcome?

Faith in God is like a flower that continues to open throughout life. There is no telling how wide the bud will open. However we continue to trust that, with nurture and nourishment, that flower will grow. Faith *grows*. In your own life, look back and reflect on where you have been—which you never could have envisioned from one stage to another. Trust God. Your call is to faithfully live a life that exhibits your love for God.

We see echoes of this call in the Old Testament lesson from Deuteronomy. Moses is looking out over the vast landscape—an image which is symbolic of him taking stock of his life, all those events we find covered in the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. Moses was the one recruited by God to go to Egypt and bring the Israelites out of the land dominated by King Pharaoh. Moses was the one who would take the Israelites through the desert wilderness, through the Red Sea, to help them get to the place that God had promised—that place flowing with milk and honey.

At the beginning of his ministry, Moses questions God about why *he* is the one to do this work. He asks God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and tell him to release the Israelites and to let God's people go?" God assures Moses that he is the person for the assignment. Moses, timid as he was, insecure as he felt, also recognized that he loved God so much—with all his heart, soul, and mind—that if God chose him to go to Egypt, then that's what he had to do.

Beloved, you and I are oftentimes called to things that seem beyond our comprehension and well beyond our capabilities. But when God taps you on the shoulder, and you love God above all things, you will step out in faith to do the thing that God has asked you to do.

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Like it did for Moses, there will time when we will be called to set down earthly things. God will say to each of us, "You will not cross over there," just like he said to Moses. When that time comes, it is another chance to put our trust in God.

The words penned by the composer, Lucie Eddie Campbell put it this way:

> Oh, when I come to the end of my journey,
> Weary of life and the battle is won,
> Carrying the staff and the cross of redemption,
> He'll understand and say, well done.

The final phrase of course recalls that line from one of Jesus's parables: "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Now, those words will not be spoken to us because we answered all the questions right on the test, but because we knew the answer to the question Jesus asks, in several different ways, throughout the Gospel of Matthew, "Who do *you* say that I am?"

Jesus asks a similar question at the end of this exchange with the Pharisees: "What do you think of the Messiah?"

What is *your* answer? This is definitely not a "gotcha" question. Its stakes are real. And your answer has never been more relevant than today.

Amen.

The Rev. Kathleen Walker *joined the staff of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in February 2020 to focus on the continuity and vitality of the dozen Black congregations. The history of the African American tradition in North Carolina is rich and profound. It is important to weave their diversity into a closer bond of inclusion with other parishes and the diocese. The goal is to ensure all predominantly Black congregations have the best opportunity to make the fullest use of the resources of their parishes, partnerships, and the diocese. Currently there are 11 active African American congregations in the diocese and one historical church that is in process of redevelopment. Canon Walker is passionate about sustaining and supporting Black communities in the context of the Episcopal church. Canon Walker graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2018. She is currently president of the Alumni Association Executive Committee. She has dedicated many years to the cause of social and racial justice. Rev. Walker is committed to fulfilling the diocese's priority of becoming beloved community as we work through racial reckoning, justice and healing. She is also president of the Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians.*

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