

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 21, 2025**

**9:30 A.M in the Labyrinth**

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker  
Rector

# Welcome to our Church

## WELCOME

to

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

**Services are available:** Recent services are available on our website: <https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

**Newsletters:** Sign-up today to receive our weekly electronic newsletter! Email the church office at [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org) to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

336-667-4231

[www.stpaulwilkesboro.org](http://www.stpaulwilkesboro.org)

E-mail: [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org)

**Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800**

**ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:**



# The Gathering

Prelude  
Prelude in C Major

*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Processional Hymn #390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (stanzas 1, 2 and 4)

*Descant*

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -  
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -  
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with  
a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with  
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound — from his  
health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his  
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.  
or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

## **Opening Acclamation**

**Presider**        Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
**People**        **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Presider**        Let us pray:

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE Canticle 9 Surely it is God who saves me**

**Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in God and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's Name;**

**Make God's deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that God's Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for God has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **The Collect**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

**Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,  
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people  
from far and wide in the land:

"Is the LORD not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people  
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of my poor people!

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

**Psalm 79:1-9**

*Deus, venerunt*

O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;  
they have profaned your holy temple; \*  
**they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.**

They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, \*  
**and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.**

They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, \*  
**and there was no one to bury them.**

We have become a reproach to our neighbors, \*  
**an object of scorn and derision to those around us.**

How long will you be angry, O LORD? \*  
**will your fury blaze like fire for ever?**

Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you \*  
**and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.**

For they have devoured Jacob \*  
**and made his dwelling a ruin.**

Remember not our past sins;  
let your compassion be swift to meet us; \*  
**for we have been brought very low.**

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; \*  
**deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

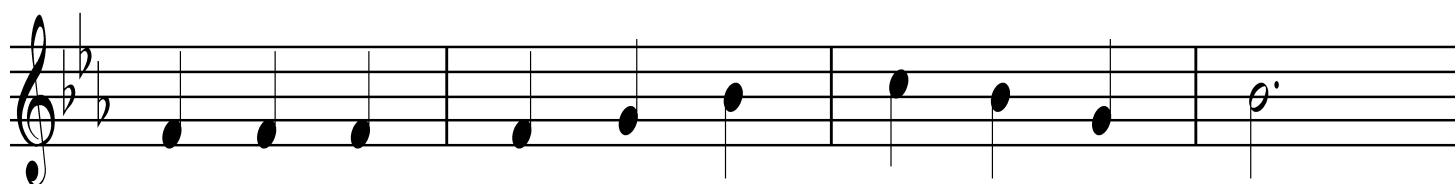
**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are most comfortable.*

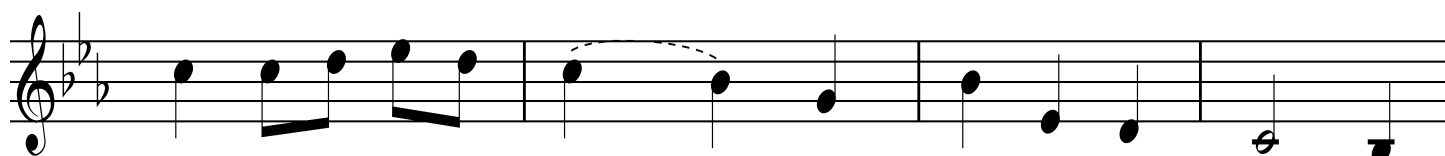
## Sequence Hymn #488 Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought,— by day or by night,  
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.



## The Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

*All are seated*

## The Sermon

*The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker*

*A time of silence following the sermon.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

**People I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the  
prayers?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever  
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good  
News of God in Christ?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving  
your neighbor as yourself?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all  
people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Presider Holy God, in your loving kindness you created and restored us when we were lost;  
you gave us this new covenant, you have given us new birth by water and the Holy  
Spirit, may it inspire us with your truth, teach us to love you with our whole minds  
and with open hearts. In Jesus most holy name, Amen.

*Please stand or kneel as desired.*

## **Prayers of the People**

Gracious and Holy God, we give thanks with all your creatures great and small, we thank you for your bounty and your goodness, for how you are present in the abundance of land and ocean, in the cycles of the seasons, and the wonders of each creature, you reveal your generosity.

*Silence*

Teach us the gratitude that dispels envy, that we may honor each gift as you cherish your creation, and praise you in all times and places. That all the world may know your grace and truth:

*Silence*

That we may offer to you our worship and praise along with the work of our hands, serving the needs of people we know well and those we know not at all:

*Silence*

That we may strive for the well-being of all creation, honoring your image in all you have created:

*Silence*

That in the pleasures and pains of life, we may know the love of Christ and be compassionate:

*Silence*

That we may always and everywhere give thanks to you, O God, for setting us at task that both challenge and delight us:

*Silence*

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit, in communion with all your holy ones, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:

**We pray in gratitude to you, O Lord.**

Presider: O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; by the might of your Spirit lift us to your presence where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

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

## **Welcome to New Members**

Presider: I present to you these persons who have joined us in the worship, ministries, and fellowship of St. Paul's. Do all here present welcome them into our body and pledge to support them in their journey?

**People: We Do!**

## The Peace

✧ *“The Peace” is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.*

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

## Presider: Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving

### Offertory

#### Offertory Anthem

##### “Jerusalem”

*C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)*

*And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England’s mountains green?  
And was the holy lamb of God  
On England’s pleasant pastures seen?*

*And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here,  
Among these dark Satanic mills?*

*Bring me my bow of burning gold,  
Bring me my arrows of desire.  
Bring me my spear: o clouds unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!*

*I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem,  
In England’s green and pleasant land.*

***William Blake (1810)***

# The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand, as able.*

*\*EOW 1 Eucharistic Prayer 3*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People And of thine own have we given thee.**

Presider The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider: All thanks and praise are yours at all time and in all places,

our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,

the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world

and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;

You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as

we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



## ***Stand or kneel as preferred here***

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.  
Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.  
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:  
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
“Drink this, all of you; this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the healing, the teaching, the cross, the tomb,  
the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting you these  
gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ;

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.  
Giver of life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with  
all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your Name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

# The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem

### Hymn #875 Be known to us

*Cantor or Choir*

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the  
*The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }*

1. *Congregation* 2. *Cantor or Choir*

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The  
*The dis -*

1. 2.

bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -

*Congregation*

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be  
The dis -

known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the  
ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

*Cantor or Choir*

bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though

*Congregation*

man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord  
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord

Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the bread.  
Je - sus }

## The Invitation to Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God...  
**God's holy food for God's holy people.**

*This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.*

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

**In one kind**--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

**Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.**

**In two kinds**--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice.

Gluten free wafers available upon request.

*Please stand or kneel as desired.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Presider      Let us pray,

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

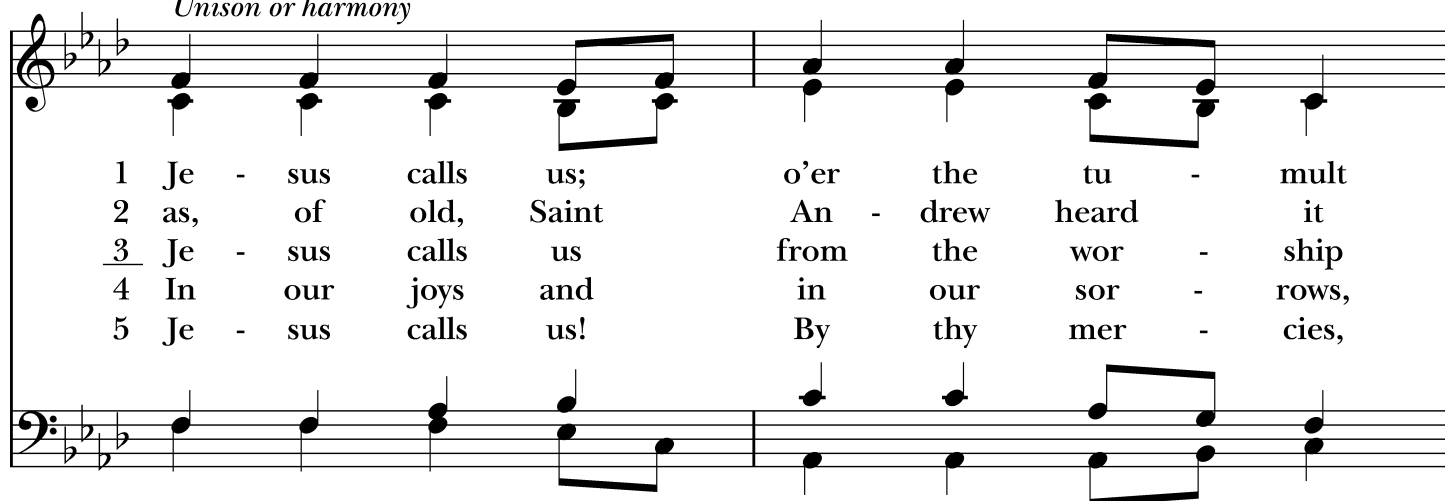
### **The Blessing**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the vulnerable; help the afflicted; honor all people. Love and serve the Lord rejoicing always. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Please stand or kneel as you are comfortable.*

## Recessional Hymn #550 Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

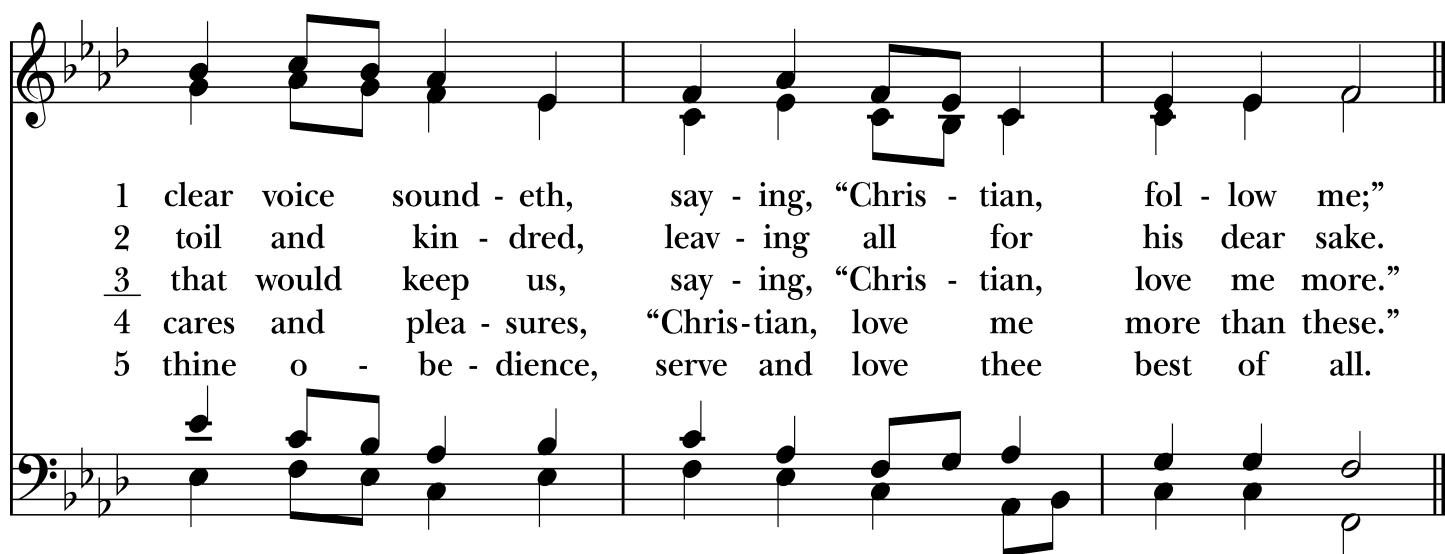
*Unison or harmony*



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult  
2 as, of old, Saint An - drew heard it  
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows,  
5 Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies,



1 of our life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his  
2 by the Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and  
3 of the vain world's gold - en store; from each i - dol  
4 days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in  
5 Sa - vior, make us hear thy call, give our hearts to



1 clear voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me;"  
2 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.  
3 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
4 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
5 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: *Restoration*, melody from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. *Hymnal* 1982, after *The Southern Harmony*, 1985; alt. harm. Margart W. Mealy (b. 1922).

## The Dismissal

**Presider:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People:** Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Postlude

**Theme from “Chariots of Fire”**

*Vangelis (1943-2022)*



Altar Flowers Given Today by the Minick family in honor of Amelia Minick's 13th birthday.

*\*\*Please note that neither Mother Stephanie nor St. Paul's will ever send out an e-mail or text communication requesting money, gift cards, etc. If you receive any suspicious communications like this, please ignore and delete these communications. Contact the Parish Office at any time with questions or concerns regarding possible scams. \*\**



# PRAYER LIST

***Please remember in your prayers:*** All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

## **Short-term**

Jan Jackson

## **Long-term**

Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Jason Williams, Shane Jenkins, Kaye Hall, Dot Beamon, Da'Shon Horton, Doug Rhodes

## **Armed Forces**

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially John Craine, Micha Duerk, Faith Lankford, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve throughout the world.

**Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code below, or by contacting the office.**





**September 21st—Ron Myers**

**September 21st—Amelia Minick**

**September 22nd—Alaina Grit**

**September 22nd—Angela Nardini**

**September 23rd—Dan Bumgarner**

**September 23rd—Larry Cline**

**September 26th—Mary Anne Caplinger**

**September 27th—Bram Koch**

**September 21st—Joe & Jenny Richardson**

**September 25th—Dick & Sheree Sloop**

**September 27th—Drew & Pam Mayberry**



**Serving Today**

**Altar Guild: Pam Mayberry, Drew Mayberry**

**Reader: Mark Williams**

**Acolytes: Mark Williams**

**Usher: Bob Houghton**

**Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley**

**Vestry Lock-Up for September: Ruth Harris**



The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina*

**St. Paul's Vestry 2025**

**Jeff Beard**

**Chuck Forester, Jr. Warden**

**Ruth Harris**

**Julie Koch**

**Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden**

**Tana Myers**

**Diane Peabody**

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Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Drew Mayberry, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*

*rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org*

Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*