

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



~The Joy of Creation by Bill Bell

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 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 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

E-mail: office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:



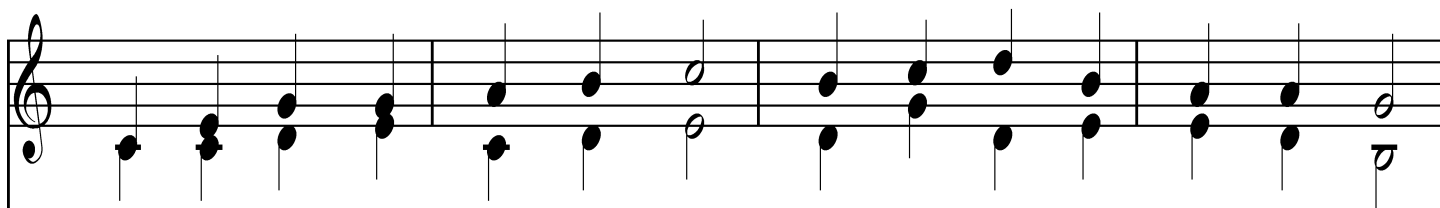
The Gathering

Prelude

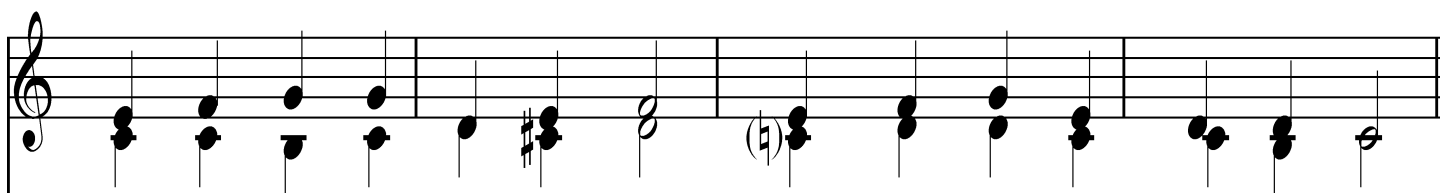
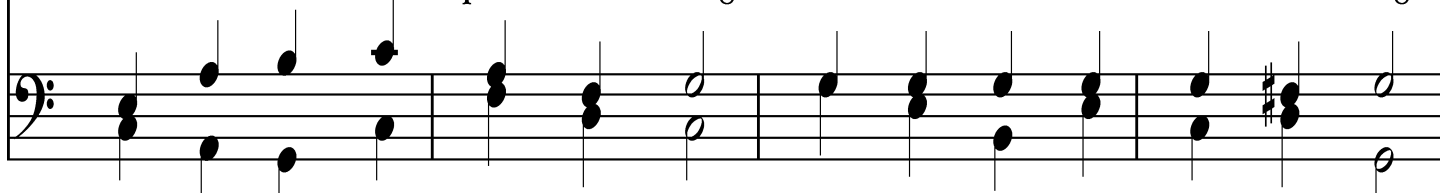
Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #530 Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word

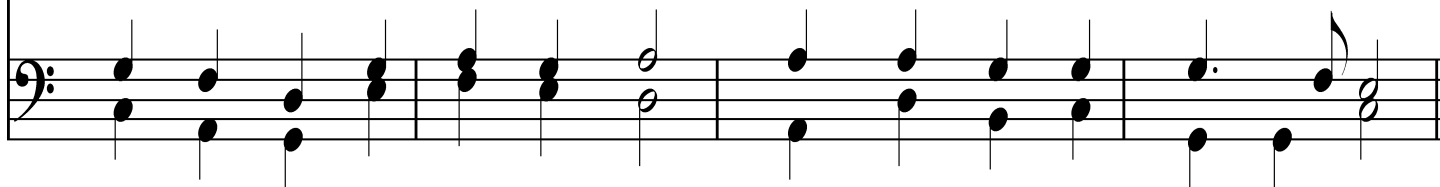
(stanzas 1-3 and 5)



1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,



1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.



Words: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier (1774-1841); tr. Arthur William Farlander (1898-1952) and Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt. St. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Gott sei Dank*, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergel (1793-1870).

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge."

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour
grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 119:97-104

Quomodo dilexi!

Oh, how I love your law! *

all the day long it is in my mind.

Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, *

and it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, *

for your decrees are my study.

I am wiser than the elders, *

because I observe your commandments.

I restrain my feet from every evil way, *

that I may keep your word.

I do not shrink from your judgments, *

because you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste! *

they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Through your commandments I gain understanding; *

therefore I hate every lying way.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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 #671 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with five numbered staves of lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are arranged in five columns, corresponding to the five staves of each system. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
* 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

The Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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: Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and through the love of neighbor. Continue to inspire us, we pray, to open our hearts to justice and compassion that we may learn to love the world as you do. **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.**

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

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Daniel Schutte

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able.

**Celtic Eucharistic Prayer, Philip Newell*

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.

Great Creator Spirit

from whom all life comes forth

here we gather again with bread and with wine

seeking your presence

longing once more to be nourished

hungering for wholeness in our lives

for unity on earth and for peace among the nations.

Here we gather with bread and with wine

but with more than bread and wine.

Here we gather with creation's elements all around us,

with earth, air, fire and water still expanding through the universe,

with the glory of the sun

the whiteness of the moon

the glittering of heaven's lights off flowing waters.

Here we gather with bread and with wine

but with more than bread and wine.

Here we gather with the firm fecundity of the earth
the growing and greening of trees
creatures of the day and night
birds of the air
all full of your glory
all bearers of your presence
all part of the great harmony
that we long to touch and taste and become one with again.

**Here we gather with bread and with wine
but with more than bread and wine.**

So with everything that we see and sense around us
with visible and invisible energies that pulse with life
we join our souls in the song that vibrates throughout
the whole of creation Holy, holy, holy God, your presence fills all things.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might.

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer for the Earth

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, O God.

Your presence fills all things.

Yet what have we done?

Creation marred by neglect and abuse

life-forms torn forever out of the fabric of the universe

nature ravaged

wealth wasted

earth's community divided

nations at war

communities fractured

families broken

the human soul sick and far from home.

Great Creator Spirit, hear our plea for mercy

hear our prayers for the earth.

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

The Memory of Jesus

Into our brokenness came the memory of wholeness

into our fear came the messenger of love

Christ born among us

one with us

child of heaven

son of womankind

bearer of forgiveness

healer of our nature

teacher of wisdom

prophet of peace

rejected by the religious

crucified by the state

companion of our soul

lover of the earth.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

Story of the Last Supper and Prayer for Unity

With his disciples at table on the night of his arrest

Jesus blessed the bread and said,

‘This is my body, broken for you.’

With his disciples at table on the night of his arrest

Jesus blessed the wine and said,

‘This is my lifeblood, poured out for you.’

Come upon us with your Spirit, O God,

and upon this bread of the earth.

May it feed our longings for peace.

Come upon us with your Spirit, O God,

and upon this cup of unity.

May it set us free to love.

The Prayer of Jesus

Ground of all being / **Ground of all being,**

Mother of life / **Mother of life,**

Father of the universe, your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence / **May we know your presence,**

may your longings be ours / **may your longings be ours,**

our longings in heart and action.

May there be food / **May there be food,**

for the human family today / **for the human family today,**

for the whole earth community.

Forgive us the falseness / **Forgive us the falseness,**

of what we have done / **of what we have done,**

as we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us / **Do not forsake us,**

in our time of conflict / **in our time of conflict,**

but lead us into new beginnings.

For the light of life / **For the light of life,**

The vitality of life / **the vitality of life,**

and the glory of life are yours now and for ever.

Amen / **Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Wine of the Earth

Broken bread, poured out wine,
signs of Christ's self-giving.

**Broken bread, poured out wine,
food for the journey into wholeness.**

In this bread we choose to be fed by you, O Christ.

In this wine we choose the way of peace.

Blessed is the One who comes to strengthen us.

Blessed is the One who comes to unite us.

Blessed is the One who leads us into the Heart of God.

Blessed, blessed, blessed.

Prayer to the Spirit

Great Creating Spirit,
who swept over the depths of the unknown
to give birth to creation in all its splendor.

Great Creating Spirit,
who conceived new life in the womb of Mary
to give birth to the Child of Peace.

Great Creating Spirit,
who hovers over the waters of the human soul today
to give birth to healings and visions that have never
been before.

Come to us as an earth community.

Come to us as nations of the world.

Grant us wholeness.

Grant us healing.

Grant us together a new language that we may be one.

Fraction

We are one bread, one body, one spirit. Alleluia.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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,

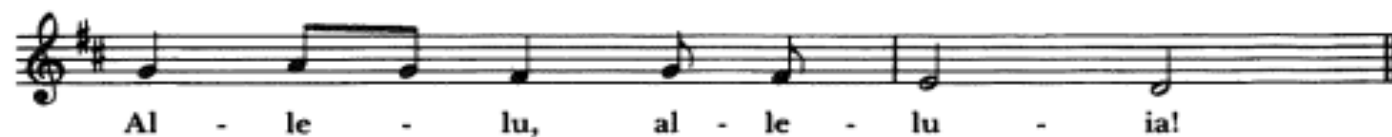
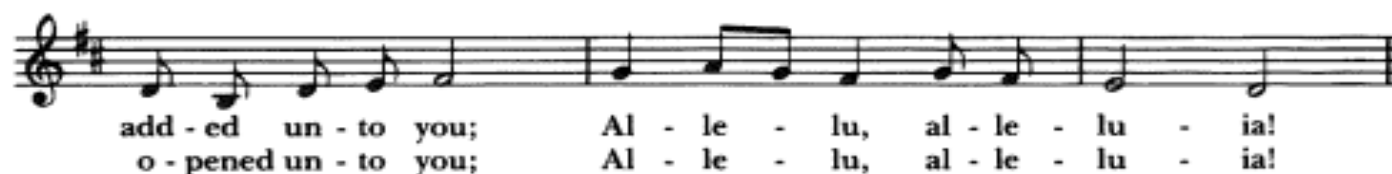
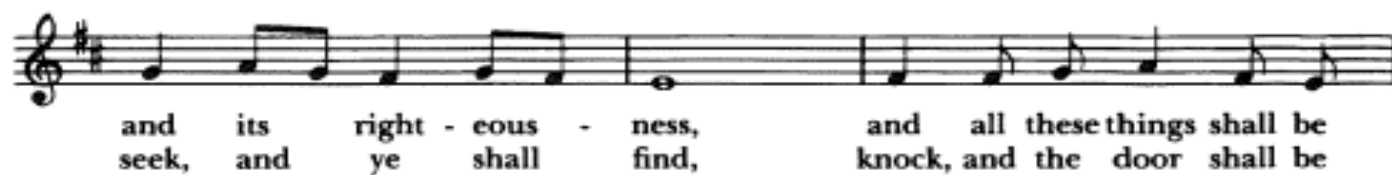
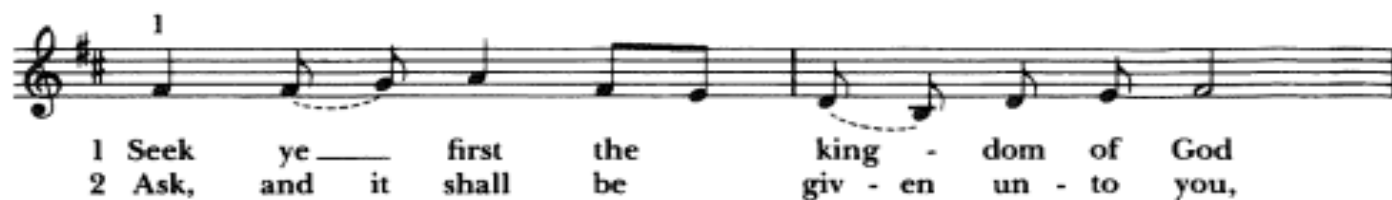
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and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

The Blessing

Go now into a fractured world and resolve to be a voice for compassion and grace. Be wise in dealing with the world we live in, but do not be seduced into serving wealth or power. Weep for those who suffer, rejoice with those who love and refuse to let hatred have the last word. 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 #711 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God



Words: St. 1, Matthew 6:33; adapt. Karen Lafferty (20th cent.). St. 2, Matthew 7:7.

Stanza 2 is not part of the hymn as originally written.

Music: *Seek Ye First*, Karen Lafferty (20th cent.)

13. 11. 7 with Alleluias

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

***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

Russ Stinson, Jan Jackson, Rosie Carlton, Rose Andrews

Long-term

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

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.





No birthdays this week.

No anniversaries this week.



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Mike Southwell, Mary Southwell

Acolyte/Reader: Linda Schneider

Usher: Ron Myers

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Vestry Lock-Up for October: Scott Jessee



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

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*