

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 16th, 2026

9:30 AM in the Chapel

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.

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336-667-4231

www.stpaulwilkesboro.org

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Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:



The Gathering

Prelude
Antiphon

Marcel Dupre

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #380 From All that Dwell Below the Skies

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

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.**

Glory To God

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,

for soon my salvation will come,

and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,

to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,

and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,

and hold fast my covenant--

these I will bring to my holy mountain,

and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices

will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer

for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD,

who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them

besides those already gathered.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 67

Deus misereatur

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
**for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Second Reading

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are most comfortable.

Sequence Hymn #531 O Spirit of the Living God

The Gospel

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

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

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

[Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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.

An Affirmation of Faith

We affirm that human beings are made for God and for one another. We celebrate the diversity of our human family and respond to God's call in the world through acts of mercy and justice.

We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God's goodness. Humans, nonhuman animals, plants, and other forms of life are a part of a web of community that depends on each other. We affirm our sacred call to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

We profess that all we are and all that we possess, belongs to God. We are temporary stewards of resources and material goods that should be used to serve God and our neighbor. We recognize economic challenges of scarcity, but pledge to live into a Kingdom of God where all are cared for and all have enough.

We affirm that our involvement in political systems is rooted in the Gospel imperative to love our neighbor, to do justice, and to care for the vulnerable. Our political action is to be aimed at a common good and not a pursuit of power.

I believe that the Triune God is a God that is community, and that God created humanity to be in community. We are called to be holy, and are made holy through the saving work of Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Gracious and generous God, creator of all, in the cycle of summer, of sun and warmth, of the green earth and blue skies, we give thanks for the beauty of creation that flows from you to us.

Silence

Gracious and generous God, creator of all, pouring your love into the world through your Christ; Jesus shows us your steadfast promise of love, hope, and Abundant Life; May we follow where he leads and become a blessing in our world.

Silence

Gracious and generous God, merciful lover of souls, tend to those who grieve. We pray for the suffering of this world: of body, mind, and spirit, May your healing love embrace the pain and hold it with your tender care.

Silence

Gracious and generous God, merciful lover of souls, take our worries and the brokenness of the world and heal it as only you are able. May we allow your Word to be spoken through our lives and help us to become instruments of your love and healing.

Silence

Gracious and generous God, the voice of hospitality to the stranger, help us to have the courage to transform our fears and prejudices so that we may become a people of intentional welcome. May our love shine though in our openness, our worship, our fellowship and our common life. May we love both the stranger and one another.

Silence

Presider: Loving God, you know us so well. When we hide, you seek and find us. Hear us now when words can confuse and alienate us, when the world is both too much and not enough, when we feel too hungry to be filled. You are our light, our truth and our hope. Grant that we may always find our confidence in the promises of mercy and grace. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable.

New Zealand Prayer Book

God has promised forgiveness
as a gift of freedom and grace.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Moment of silence observed.

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 Anthem

Make Me a Channel of Thy Peace

Sebastian Temple

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there is hatred let me bring your love

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh master grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there's despair in life let me bring hope

Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

In giving to all men that we receive

And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

(Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP page 369

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 It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth., through Jesus Christ our Lord. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Eucharistic Prayer C invites standing.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust: and we turned against one another.

Thank you for your mercy when we fall short of your hope for the human family.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his love, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore, we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection,

as we await the day of his coming.

Lord, God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Let us love one another as Christ loves us—Alleluia!

The Invitation to Communion

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

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

The world now is too dangerous
and too beautiful for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone.
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.
May your hands be so blessed
that everything you touch is a sacrament.
Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.
May your feet be so blessed you run
to those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened,
so set on fire, that your love,
your love, changes everything.
And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand or kneel as you are comfortable.

Recessional Hymn #371 Thou, Whose Almighty Word

1 Thou, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard,
2 Thou who didst come to bring on thy re - deem - ing wing
3 Spi - rit of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly Dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and, where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth thy flight! Move on the wa - ters' face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might; bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

Gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light!
in - ly blind, now to all hu - man - kind, let there be light!
gifts of grace, and, in earth's dark - est place, let there be light!
full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

Words: John Marriott (1780-1825), alt. Music: *Moscow*, Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916, based on *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

PRAYER LIST

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

Short-term

Kim Tetzlaff, Doug Merritt, Shannon Ryan, Jamie Tate

Long-term

Ruth Harris, Michael Morrison, Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Da'Shon Horton, Rose Andrews, Margo Hurd

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.





August 16th—Nancy Scroggs

August 19th—John Harwell

August 19th-Tana Myers

August 21st—Evelyn Southwell

August 17th—Doug & Bonnie
Merritt

August 17th—Whitman & Jeanne
Loflin

August 18th—Joe & Sarah
Fesperman

August 18th—Gwen & David
Temple



Hermitage Matching Donation Challenge

Dear Friends of the Hermitages,

If you've visited the Hermitages at the Valle Crucis Conference Center, you know how special they are as a place of respite, prayer, and renewal. They are truly a powerful gift of ministry.

And if you've tried to book a Hermitage in the past few years, you know how difficult it is to find any time at all in them! The Hermitages stay 85-90% occupied most months of the year. Guests from all over the Southeast treasure their time in retreat here. Expanding this ministry would enable more guests to find the balm of peaceful quiet.

Bishop José McLoughlin has pledged \$150,000 to create up to two more Hermitages!

Bishop José's generosity highlights his enduring love for the holy ground of the mountains and the people of Western North Carolina.

Now is your chance to make this gift even more meaningful.

With two new buildings will come the need for robust infrastructure to support them—a new well and plumbing lines, electrical wiring, grading, and all the background work that makes new retreat lodging possible. And the existing Hermitages will need some sprucing as well!

Your donations will help make the new Hermitages a reality AND support the existing ministry of retreat!

Pledge now to honor Bishop José's generosity.

Scan the QR code below to be taken to the giving platform, visit vcconferences.org, or send a check to VCCC, P.O Box 654, Valle Crucis, NC 28691, with a note in the memo as a Hermitage gift in honor of Bishop José.





Sign Up For All Diocesan Communications

This link will sign up you up for the weekly Along The Way newsletter, letters from the Bishop, notices from the diocesan office, ***and all communications relevant to the bishop transition & search process.***



www.diocesewnc.org/newsletter

Serving Today

Altar Guild: Laurie Love, Reba Whittington, Kendall Forester

Reader/Server: Laurie Love

Usher: Jeff Beard

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Streaming Ministry: Rachel Minick, Gerry Peabody

Vestry Lock-Up for August: Jim Burch



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

St. Paul's Vestry 2026

Jeff Beard

Jim Burch, Jr. Warden

Chuck Forester

Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden

Tana Myers

Diane Peabody

Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Linda Schneider, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*
rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*
office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Dean Carlton, *Sexton*