



WORSHIP BULLETIN:
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 8:45 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Prayer B
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE:

Instrumental

Harden Not Your Hearts

Composed by: John Partridge

ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal.

(H 450) All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

OPENING ACCLAMATION: BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

GLORIA:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal.

(S 278) Glory To God

COLLECT OF THE DAY: BCP p. 357

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

Exodus 17:1-7

The people sit.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people; *

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the
Lord, *

and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their
forefathers, *

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass
through; *

he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, *

**and all the night through with a glow of
fire.**

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *

**and gave them drink as from the great
deep.**

He brought streams out of the cliff, *

and the waters gushed out like rivers.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love, any sharing in the
Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make
my joy complete: be of the same mind,
having the same love, being in full accord and
of one mind. Do nothing from selfish
ambition or conceit, but in humility regard
others as better than yourselves. Let each of
you look not to your own interests, but to the
interests of others. Let the same mind be in
you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have
always obeyed me, not only in my presence,
but much more now in my absence, work out
your own salvation with fear and trembling;
for it is God who is at work in you, enabling
you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal.

(H 439) What Wondrous Love is This?

GOSPEL:

Matthew 21:23-32

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief
priests and the elders of the people came to
him as he was teaching, and said, "By what
authority are you doing these things, and
who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to
them, "I will also ask you one question; if you
tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by
what authority I do these things. Did the
baptism of John come from heaven, or was it
of human origin?" And they argued with one
another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say
to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'
But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid
of the crowd; for all regard John as a
prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do
not know." And he said to them, "Neither will
I tell you by what authority I am doing these
things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he
went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work
in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will

not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

POST-GOSPEL HYMN:

Instrumental

Improvisation

Composed by: John Partridge

THE SERMON: The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder

THE CREED: BCP p. 358

All stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of

the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

All remain standing

CONFESSION OF SIN: BCP p. 360

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION:

THE PEACE:**BCP p. 360***All stand.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **September is Hunger Awareness Month-**

Contra Costa County Food from the Bar is raising funds for the Food Bank – see announcements for details.

- **Women's Bible Study** – Tues, Sept. 29 - New time - 6:30 pm.

- **The Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert Memorial**

Concert - Sat., October 3 at 7:30 pm.

- **Sun., Oct. 4, - Feast of St. Francis** at both services & Blessing of the Animals at 11 am.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & TRANSITIONS:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin anew. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION:**OFFERTORY SENTENCE:****BCP p. 376****OFFERTORY ANTHEM:**

The following is sung by the choir only.

All Praise to Thee

Composed by: Thomas Tallis

Arranged by: Marie Pooler

OFFERTORY HYMN:

The following is sung.

Please refer to your hymnal.

(H 685) Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me**SURSUM CORDA:****BCP p. 367**

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. . . Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS:

Celebrant and people

Please refer to your hymnal.

(S 130) Holy Holy Holy

The Celebrant continues...

THE LORD’S PRAYER: BCP p. 363

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

*The following is sung.
Please refer to your hymnal.*

(S 152) Christ Our Passover

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:

All are welcome to come forward for communion. If you're new to the sacrament, please reference the card in the pews with more information. The bread is given with the words, 'The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.' The wine is given with the words, 'The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.'

COMMUNION SOLO:

Instrumental

Come Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing

Genre: American Folk

Improvisation by: John Partridge

COMMUNION HYMN:

*The following is sung.
Please refer to your hymnal.*

(H 343) Shepherd of Souls

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: BCP p. 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING:

The Celebrant blesses the people.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

*The following is sung.
Please refer to your hymnal.*

(H 482) Lord of All Hopefulness

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

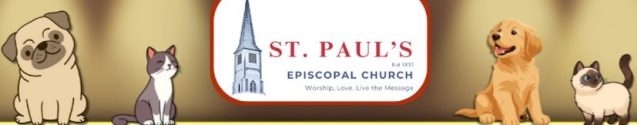
People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Instrumental

Fugue in G Minor

Composed by: John Partridge





ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Worship. Love. Live the Message.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th @ 11 AM

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



* September is Hunger Awareness Month- Contra Costa County Food from the Bar is raising funds for the Food Bank – see announcements for details.

* Women's Bible Study – Tues, Sept. 29 - New time - 6:30 pm.

* The Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert Memorial Concert -Sat., Oct. 3 at 7:30 pm.

The deadline for submitting announcements is Wednesday at noon.
E-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org Phone: (707) 745-0307

SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST:



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(707) 745-0307

120 E J St. Benicia, CA

Please e-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org for updates or additions

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Sue Hammond
Donna Marshall
R.C. Whitehead
Jude Augustus
Emery
Neal Mulholand
Regina Williams
Michelle Ellett
Marty & Sue
Kovach
Gene Ekenstam
Mark Stafforini
David Michael

Jim Jewell
Jim Turner
Jack Carr
Dick Bryan
John
David Gibbs
John Helm
Lolli Hilton
Norma Cook
Mark Park
Cathy W.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Vicky Carr

WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES

Major Russ Morris, U.S. Air Force Reserves
SFC Mike Moverley, 1st Battalion 143rd Field Artillery, U.S. Army
Warrant Officer Brandon Niemann, U.S. Army Airman
Andrew Severa, U.S. Air Force
SA Michelle Severa, PA, Air National Guard
Staff SGT Jake Sackett, U.S. Air Force
Major Xacasia Evans-Walp, U.S. Army
Airman 1st Class Nevaeh Jarvis, U.S. Air Force
Captain Greg Arnold, U.S. Navy

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

9/30 Carole Johnson

SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder	
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Music	John Partridge	Todd Peterson
Lector	Debi Hall	Carole Johnson
Intercessor	Ann Lindsay	Donna Patey
LEM	Jim Brown & Robyn Wall	Donna Patey & Cathy Cellini
Shared Prayers		Nancy Bryan
Ushers	Kathy Gojack & Ann Lindsay	Jeff Jarvis & Brenda Moore
Altar Guild	Cathy Cellini & Susie Bonstin	
Flower Guild	Karen Lowe	
Verger	Jim Wolf	

PARISH LEADERSHIP

CLERGY:

The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Priest

STAFF:

John Partridge, Traditional Music Director
Cameron DePalma, Contemporary Music Director
Eric Foster, Communications Director
Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator
Tim Markley, Archivist
Kylie Lazarek, Nursery Staff
Heather Pritchard, Nursery Staff

VESTRY:

Ann Lindsay, Senior Warden
Richard Padfield, Junior Warden
Donna Patey, Treasurer
Charlie Kilbourne, Gerri MacGregor, Jim Peterson, Brandon Bailey, Kathryn Gojack, Megan Klingensmith, Michelle Fitzgerald

MISSION:

St. Paul's welcomes all people at any stage of their spiritual journey to worship together, care for the community, and live the message of Jesus Christ.

VISION:

We strive to be an active, diverse and welcoming community where people come together to worship and deepen their faith.

VALUES

COMMUNITY:

We support our neighbors through service & compassion. We are a safe space & a supportive community where members are cared for by one another.

INCLUSION:

We are an inclusive community where people of all identities, backgrounds & histories are welcome to find & continue their spiritual journey.

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST:

We believe in striving to live the message of Jesus Christ every day. At St. Paul's, we walk the way of love together.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

At any point in a person's spiritual journey, there are opportunities to learn, grow & strengthen one's faith at St. Paul's.

NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

When you enter a St. Paul's Episcopal Church service or event, you enter an area where photography, audio, live streaming, and video recording may occur.

CALENDAR

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Nursery Hours (U)
 8:45 am +Communion
 10 am Coffee Hour (P)
 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) & Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
 11 am +Communion
 12 pm Coffee Hour (P)
 4 pm Meditation (P)
 8 pm AA (P)



MONDAY: 9/28

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
 8 pm AA Meeting (P)

TUESDAY: 9/29

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 1 - 2:30 pm +Organ Practice
 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (U)

WEDNESDAY: 9/30

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 10 am +Communion
 11 am Bible Study (L)
 4:30 pm Community Meal (P)

THURSDAY: 10/1

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 7:30 am Coffee with Rev. Annie
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 11 am +Music Practice
 12:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe Practice

FRIDAY: 10/2

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 10:30 am Al-Anon Meeting (U)
 7- 9 pm NA Meeting (P)

SATURDAY: 10/3

7 am AA Meeting (U)
 7 am Men's Meeting (R)
 8 am - 5 pm - Scrapbooking Group (P)
 7:30 pm
 +The Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert
 Memorial Concert
 Reception to follow

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Feast of St. Francis

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Nursery Hours (U)
 8:45 am +Communion
 10 am Coffee Hour (P)
 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) & Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
 11 am +Communion - Blessing of the Animals
 12 pm Coffee Hour (P)
 4 pm Meditation (P)
 8 pm AA (P)



KEY

- +** = CHURCH
- P** = PARISH HALL
- U** = UNDERCROFT
- R** = RECTORY
- K** = KITCHEN
- L** = RECTORY LIBRARY
- O** = OUTDOORS