



SERVANTS OF CHRIST
ANGLICAN CHURCH

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

If you are in need of additional precautions to avoid illness, we offer our balcony where masks are required.

Get Started At Servants

If you're visiting with us, we'd love to get to know you better. Feel free to fill out our connect card and we will gladly answer any questions you have about us. If you're ready to dive into our community, we invite you to download our app.

Connect
Card

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[Mission Spotlight](#)

[Prayer Reminders](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Financial Update](#)

Order of Worship

We invite you to follow the service in the Book of Common Prayer by referencing the page numbers listed. If you worship from home and do not have a Prayer Book but would like one, please contact the Church Office. Most parts of the service are projected in-house or subtitled in our live video, except for the sermon. A guideline for Anglican worship generally: we stand to praise God, we sit to listen, and we kneel to pray.

At times you may see some people bowing or making the sign of the cross. These gestures are symbolic customs (called sacramentals) that some prefer to use in keeping with our ancient roots. At Servants you'll hear the phrase "all may, some should, none must," which is our general guide for these customs.

Processional Hymn

The ministers for the service enter preceded by

a cross. The cross is one of several symbols of Christ present in the service and some choose to bow as it passes to honor Jesus's atoning death for us.

The Acclamation 123

These opening lines vary according to the seasons of the church calendar.

The Collect for Purity 124

This 11th-century prayer begins almost every Anglican worship service.

The Summary of the Law 124

On specific penitential Sundays, we replace the "Summary of the Law" with the 10 Commandments (or Decalogue). In both instances, hearing God's law reminds us of God's expectations for our lives.

The Kyrie 107

Literally "Lord, have mercy," this Greek prayer is the oldest prayer in our liturgy and comes from the age of the apostles. On entering the presence of God, we ask for mercy.

The Gloria 125

This 2nd-century prayer, written in the poetic form of a Psalm, proclaims that we have entered into the presence of God as we have worshiped him. You may see some bowing at the mention of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and Father at the end of the Gloria. This is like

bowing when the cross passes, a gesture some use to honor Christ as our King.

The Collect of the Day 619

Collects “collect” our thoughts and focus them on a theme found in the Lessons and Gospel as the service shifts our attention to listening to God’s Word.

The Lessons 727

These readings usually come from the lectionary, a schedule of readings that many churches around the world follow every Sunday. In using the lectionary, we worship with them and they with us. We use the English Standard Version.

Ecclesiasticus 27:30–28:7

30 Anger and wrath, these also are abominations,

yet a sinner holds on to them.

1 The vengeful will face the Lord’s vengeance,
for he keeps a strict account of their sins.

2 Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done,

and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.

3 Does anyone harbor anger against another,

and expect healing from the Lord?

4 If one has no mercy toward another like himself,

can he then seek pardon for his own sins?

5 If a mere mortal harbors wrath,

who will make an atoning sacrifice for his sins?

6 Remember the end of your life, and set enmity aside;

remember corruption and death, and be true to the commandments.

7 Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbor;

remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

Psalm 103:1-14

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul, *

and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.

2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, *

and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgives all your sin *

and heals all your infirmities,

- 4 Who saves your life from the pit *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-
kindness,
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, *
renewing your youth like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness and
judgment *
for all those who are oppressed with wrong.
- 7 He showed his ways to Moses, *
his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and
mercy, *
long-suffering and of great goodness.
- 9 He will not always chide us, *
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our
sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our
wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the
earth, *
so great is his mercy also toward those who
fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *

so far has he set our sins from us.

13 As a father pities his own children, *
so is the LORD merciful to those who fear
him.

14 For he knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

Romans 14:5-12

5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your

brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall confess to God.”

12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Gradual Hymn

The medieval practice of singing before the Gospel reading was restored in American Anglicanism in 1928.

The Gospel

Since at least the 4th century, the Church has asked those able to do so to stand during the reading of the Gospel.

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you

seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow

servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed 109

The Prayers of the People

Congregants may add specific prayers during the pauses. Please speak loudly so that we can hear and agree with you.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, “hear our prayer.” For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God. Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Alex, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese and Congregation. Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad, especially our mission partner, Loren & Linda Fox with TEAM; and for all who teach and disciple others. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith, especially in Egypt; and for those who persecute your people. Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service. Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray. Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

The Confession & Absolution of Sin 130

The Peace 131

Welcome & [Announcements](#)

The Offertory

To give, visit servantsanglican.org/give.

Offertory Song

The Doxology

The Sursum Corda 132

Literally “Lift up your hearts.” This command is from the 2nd century and opens the Communion service in every ancient liturgy known today. During this part of the service, the priest gives a reason for praising God which changes with the Church seasons.

The Sanctus 132

Syrian Christians in the 3rd century adopted this prayer from the Jewish synagogues. It combines imagery from the Psalms and the prophet Isaiah.

The Prayer of Consecration 132

As Anglicans we take a high view of the Eucharist believing it is the real presence of Christ that we imbibe. The elements are spiritually changed. The Eucharist is an outward sign of a spiritual reality: grace is given, strength to fulfill our baptismal vows is conveyed, and we join with believers throughout all time and space at the foot of the Cross.

The Lord’s Prayer 134

The Fraction 135

This action symbolically pictures Christ’s body broken on the cross for us.

The Prayer of Humble Access 135

The Agnus Dei 136

The Ministration of Communion

All baptized Christians may receive Communion. Ushers will direct you to the altar rail where you may kneel or stand. If you are not baptized and would like to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will quietly pray God's blessing upon you. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, cross your hands face down at the rail as a signal to the priest. If you are unable to walk to the altar, but would like Communion, please notify an usher.

During Communion, prayer intercessors are available to pray for you for anything you need. Look for the two people standing near the east emergency exit doors.

Communion Songs

The Post Communion Prayer 137

This prayer from 1549 summarizes all the themes of the Communion service: thanksgiving, mystery, unity with Christ, spiritual nurture, mission, and the coming Kingdom of God.

The Blessing

Hymn for Processing into the World

The Dismissal

To honor this parish's origins in the Anglican Church of Kenya we use the dismissal form

from the Kenyan Prayer Book. You may see parishioners pointing to the cross as we send our cares to Christ, and then pointing to the heavens as we declare where our hope resides. These are optional motions, like crossing oneself or bowing toward the cross or the altar.

Deacon All our problems

All **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All our difficulties

All **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All the devil's works

All **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All our hopes

All **We set on the risen Christ.**

The deacon or priest gives the dismissal.

All **Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Mission Spotlight

Loren & Linda Fox with TEAM: Fr. Loren & Linda Fox are missionaries serving in some of the most difficult-to-serve places in the world. The Foxes are followers of Jesus who have traveled in and out of Asia over several decades. In 2017 the Foxes returned to Asia to

focus on Member Care for global workers and also on culture and training. They desire to see the hope of Jesus communicated among those communities who remain outside the normal reach of the Church. We have kept our description of their ministry vague in order to protect them and those they work with. Last year, Fr. Loren was our guest preacher and you can hear his sermon [here](#). Learn more about the Foxes' work in our app or at engagingtheadventure.org.

Announcements

If you're new to Servants, the section below is intended to give you a picture of what is going on in our parish over the next few weeks. All of this information and more can be found [in our app](#), available to you when you need it most!

Special Events

Fellowship Directory: This year we're including photos in the directory! Digital copies of the book will be free. We will also print free versions without photos. Printed directories with photos will be \$32. Please [complete this form](#) to let us know how you'd like to receive the directory. [Use this form](#) to be added to our Fellowship Directory. If you're

already in the directory and just need to update your information, you can use that same form.

The Ordination of Kathy Ayres: Saturday, October 14, 2:00pm at Servants. By the grace of God and with the consent of the people Bp. Alex Farmer will ordain Kathy to the sacred order of deacons. Your prayers and presence are requested. Reception to follow. Clergy should plan to wear red stoles.

Prayer Minister Training: Saturday, October 28, 9:00am-12:00pm in the Sanctuary. As Christians, we all are called to a life of prayer and here at Servants, prayer undergirds all that we do. If you would like to learn more about how and why we pray, and would like to be a part of the vibrant prayer ministry at Servants, please plan on attending the prayer ministry training in the Sanctuary. Contact Mother Susan Rhodes at susan.rhodes@servantsanglican.org.

Men's Fall Hiking Trip: All men 18+ are invited to join the men's hiking trip this November 17-20! This year's trip has two options: backpacking or day hiking. To learn more about the trip, [follow this link](#). To sign

up, [click here](#). Contact Jose Boada at jose@boada.org with questions about backpacking. Contact Justin Smith at enroth215@gmail.com with questions about the day hiking option.

Gatherings

Women's Fellowship: The Women's Fellowship meets on Mondays from 12:00-1:30pm in the Conference Room. The goal of the group is to change lives through Bible study and authentic friendships. This is a place for women to be comfortable expressing their viewpoints, engage in meaningful dialogue, and share their lives in a confidential setting as they grow in faith. All women are welcome! Contact Ramona Chance with questions at rchance@mindspring.com.

Life on the Porch: Mondays, 8:00-9:00pm, men of all ages and backgrounds are invited to a casual gathering where the group checks in, reads Compline together followed by a brief scripture examination from the Daily Office, and ends with prayer. You don't have to attend every time; it's a relaxed environment to spend time with others from the church. The location changes, but is always at the home of a member; text John Harris for the

address at (352) 224-8156.

Ways to Serve

Mark 14:7 Ministry: We are gathering items in the basket in the narthex to be taken to Gainesville Community Ministry. Each month we focus on different categories that are in high demand. During the month of September we're collecting canned goods, especially fruit, vegetables and meat! If you would like to volunteer to deliver to GCM please contact Ann Shower at awshower@yahoo.com.

Freedom to Invest Initiative: We are working to pay down our mortgage as quickly as we can. By doing so, funds will be freed up for the church to invest in ministry spaces and more! To give, go to servantsanglican.org/give. If giving by check, please note "FTI" or "Freedom to Invest" on the memo line.

Financial Update

We know that money talk can be a real turn-off, but as Christ-followers we are called to be generous and we print these amounts as a way to encourage one another toward generosity. Amounts are current as of September 3.

2024 Budget YTD: \$70,342

2024 Giving YTD: \$55,284

Freedom to Invest Initiative: \$36,629

(7% of our \$526,000 goal)