THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN GARRETT COUNTY WORSHIPPING AT ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH the episcopal diocese of maryland 10 A.M. \$\rightarrow\$ October 5, 2025

The Liturgy of the Word

Be thankful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God. Before the service, speak to the Lord. During the service, let the Lord speak to you. After the service, speak to one another.



Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: Royal Oak, melody from The Dancing Master, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

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THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant We have come together to rejoice with God

the Creator at the wonderful creation around us.
O God, you love all things that exist: and despise none of the things which you have made, for you would have made nothing you didn't love. You spare all things, for they are yours O Lord who loves the living,

for your immortal Spirit is in all things.

People Let us sing to the Lord a new song:

a song for all the creatures of the earth.

Celebrant Let us rejoice in the goodness of God

shown in the beauty of little things.

People Let us marvel at the little creatures

who are innocent in God's sight.

Celebrant Let us extol God's handiwork

in the complexity of their lives.

People Let us not be haughty or proud, too full of ourselves

to praise the Lord of little things.

Celebrant Let us rejoice in the other worlds

sublime and mysterious that God has made:

People The world of earthworms burrowing in the ground;

Celebrant The world of skylarks soaring above us;

People The world of foxes playing around their dens.

Celebrant Let us hear the divine rejoicing throughout the whole earth;

"the earth is mine and the fullness thereof."

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. When you open your hand they are filled with good things. When you hide your face they are dismayed; when you take away their breath they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

People Help us to wonder, Lord to stand in awe; to stand and stare; and so to praise you for the richness of the world You have laid before us.

Celebrant God of the universe all creatures praise you:

the sun setting on the lakes, the birds flying upward toward the heavens; the growl of the bear, the darting of the stickleback; the purring of the cat, the wide eyes of the tiger; the swift legs of the cheetahs, the dance of the hare; the lapping of the dogs, the descent of the dove.

God of a thousand ears the music of your creatures

Resounds throughout creation and in heaven a symphony is made.

People Help us to wonder Lord to stand in awe; to stand and stare; and so to praise you for the richness of the world You have laid before us.

THE SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like an ox. The suckling child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

People Christ in all things restore our senses and give us again that experience of joy in all created things.

Celebrant Christ in all things:
in the waves breaking on the shore;
in the beauty of the sunset;

in the fragrant blossom of Spring; in the music that makes our hearts dance; in the kisses of embracing love; in the cries of the innocent.

People

Christ in all things restore our senses and give us again that experience of joy in all created things.

There follows a period of silence

Celebrant

Immense God, help us to know the littleness of our lives without you; the littleness of our thoughts without your inspiration; and the littleness of our hearts without your love; you are God beyond our littleness yet in one tiny space and time you became one with us and all those specks of dust you love for all eternity; enlarge our hearts and minds to reverence all living things and in our care for them to become big with your grace and signs of your kingdom.

People

Heavenly dove descend on us we pray and in your flight reunite our sinful wills to your heavenly will so we may soar upwards and see the smallness of ourselves amid the vastness of your unfolding creation. Amen.

Celebrant

We look forward with all your creatures to the wonderful consummation of all things in Christ when death and pain shall be no more and the whole earth shall unite with those in heaven and praise your name saying:

Worthy are you our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and power for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.

People

God of manifold blessings, source of all that is good and true and holy, raise us up to see the world through your eyes alive with your Spirit and touched by your creative hand; and may the blessing of this wonderful God Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be upon us now and forever, Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader Let us pray with the whole church and in the words of its saints, poets, and

theologians for all those who struggle against the abuse of animals and for the rebirth of compassion in our hearts. Every creature is by its nature a kind of effigy

and likeness of the eternal wisdom.

Silence

Leader Almighty God, we pray for grace to perceive your creative hand in all things.

Lord in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We praise you, O God, for your glory displayed in all the creatures of the earth.

For all things exist only as seen by you, only as known by you.

Lord in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Help us, O God, to be full of praise for all your creatures.

Lord in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Surely we ought to show kindness and gentleness to animals for many reasons and

chiefly because they are of the same origin as ourselves.

Lord in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Increase in us O God, a sense of fellowship with all your creatures. Help us to walk

humbly and tread gently on your good earth.

Lord in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader What is a charitable heart? It is a heart which is burning with a love for the whole

creation...a heart which can no longer bear to see or learn from others of any suffering, even the smallest pain, being inflicted on a creature. Almighty God, we pray for

loving, sensitive hearts towards all your creatures.

Lord in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Help us, O God, to set animals free from our own cruelty and greed.

Lord in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader I was early convinced in my mind that true religion consisted in an inward life, wherein the heart doth love and reverence God the Creator and learn to exercise true justice and goodness not only to all people but also toward the creatures of the earth. Dear God help us to recover humility in our relations with animals and to realize that it is the vocation of the strong to be gentle.

Lord in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader It must be remembered that we are required to practice justice even in our dealings with animals. Almighty God, help us to deal justly with animals, living without wantonness and promoting kindness.

Lord in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Almighty God, we give thanks for all those who have gone before us and given us examples of courage, mercy, and faith.

People Lord of all life, your creation groans in travail awaiting the glorious liberty of the children of God; by your Spirit help us to free creation from its bondage, to heal its pain an obtain that liberty which is your gift to all creatures. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Animals are now brought to the front of the church and they are blessed individually by the priest. After all are blessed, the following prayer is said:

Celebrant

Heavenly Father, your Holy Spirit gives breath to all living things; renew us by the same Spirit that we may learn to respect what you have given and care for what you have made, through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please warmly greet one another with the peace of Christ

Parish Life

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) N. as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY "As the Deer" Martin Nystrom

Please stand as the Offering is brought to the Altar

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing

Celebrant: Spirit of the living God be upon us. People: And all the creatures of the earth.

Celebrant: Let us be filled with the Spirit of thanksgiving.

People: And let all creation praise you.

Celebrant:

Yours, Holy Father, is the Word spoken at the beginning through whom all things came to be; this is the Word, source of all creation, who gives life to all creatures; this is the Word that became enfleshed in history, speaking to us through flesh and blood and in works of love; this is the Word that became our suffering, nailed on a tree for our liberation; this is the Word that still speaks through your Spirit; invites us to love and care for all creatures. By the power of God's spirit may the Word which became flesh become to us flesh and blood in this bread and cup, symbols of all creation united and perfected in the same Word spoken through all eternity. Christ, the incarnate Word, took the bread and said, "This is my body," and he took the cup and said, "This is my blood." In this act all creation is spoken for by the Word; everything existing is offered to the Father and not one crumb of the gift of life is lost or falls away. Holy Father, the Word you have become has set us free to love, forgive and care; let us now, with these gifts of bread and wine, live our freedom for the sake of all creatures and in your name minister to them as your Word ministers to us. We join our words with the one Word of love and in thanksgiving and praise we sing:



Music: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner, harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celebrant and People

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

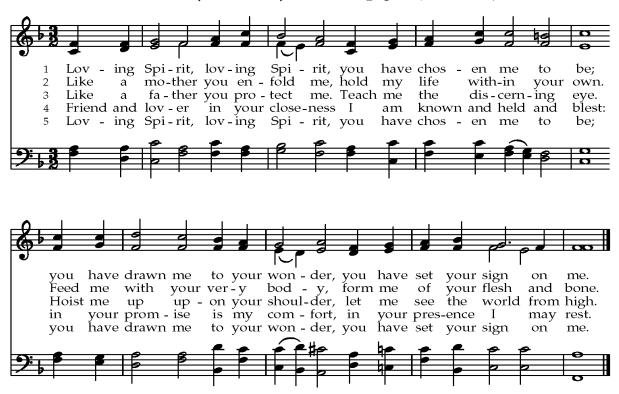
Fraction Anthem Hymn 149 (LEVAS)



All here are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our tradition is to receive both bread and wine, sharing the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips. You may receive the bread only, if you prefer. After consuming the bread, simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine. You may also "intinct" by dipping the bread into the chalice. If you desire only a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when you come to the rail.

Post-Communion Hymn 51 (VOICES)

Loving Spirit (vs 1 and 4)



 $Words: \ Shirley\ Erena\ Murray\ @\ 1987\ The\ Hymn\ Society\ (admin.\ Hope\ Publishing\ Company,\ Carol\ Stream,\ IL\ 60188).$

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Music: Omni die, melody from Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch, 1631; harm. William Smith Rockstro (1823–1895).

THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant

Blessed are you our God, Ruler of the universe, who causes bread to come forth form the earth. May your blessing be upon this bread and the bread of those who cannot be in this place, that they may in Spirit share the love and belonging of this community with all. **Amen.**

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and

People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Eternal Father, by your power of love you cause all things to be; strengthen by the merciful example of your Son, Jesus Christ, all those who struggle and work for the alleviation of animal suffering, prosper their endeavors by the power of your Holy Spirit; and may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



The liturgy for today was created from Animal Rites; Liturgies of Animal Care, by Andrew Linzey,
Published by Pilgrim Press



THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

announcements

schedule change/chip's return

Thanks to the flexibility of our consolidated church schedule, we are now able to avoid the parking issues associated with the Autumn Glory car show next Sunday. We will be meeting at **St. John's** next week (October 12th) and we will welcome Chip back to Sunday services that day! He will carry on the regular worship week from then on.

eym's 30th anniversary

The Ecumenical Youth Ministry was born out of a spiritual and financial collaboration between four parishes in Oakland, Maryland in 1995: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and St. Paul's Methodist Church. The four parishes agreed that pooling their resources together would benefit the youth of the parishes immensely since many of the youth already attended school together. In October of 1995, Lynn Broderick was interviewed by the youth along with eight other candidates and ultimately became the Ecumenical Youth Ministry Coordinator until 2001. We celebrate the 30th anniversary of the beginning of this ministry that inspired local young people, who in turn inspired our community and beyond with the Good News.

seekers

The Seekers will meet again for Friendsgiving after church on **November 9th**. Ther kids are welcome to bring friends for the meal! The Seekers are still collecting **non-perishable food** to replenish the food pantry at the Oakland Town Hall. They fill the pantry at least twice per month. If you are able to help, please bring your donations to church with you.

stephen's table

Our next meal will be served on **Thursday, October 23rd from 5 pm - 6:30 pm**. If you can help in any way, contact **Kip Senholzi** at **kwsenholzi@comcast. net,** or simply show up and have some fun with us! The **Nearly New** will be open during this time, also.

it's in the bag

It's in the Bag will resume on Wednesday, October 8th, with its 17th year of service to Garrett County school children. We provide weekend meals to more than 350 of our area's youngest and most at-risk children across all of Garrett County's elementary schools, head start, and early head start programs. Volunteers meet each Wednesday at 11 am at St. John's throughout the school year to pack the bags and deliver them to the schools. If you are interested in volunteering for this vital and rewarding ministry, contact Linda Eisenhart at LLeisenhart@gmail.com or show up on a packing day.

nearly new

The Nearly New would like to thank everyone who reached out regarding our need for a vacuum. We had an overwhelming response and are so grateful to you all for caring for this ministry!

We are always in need of volunteers. Even if you can only help a day here and there, we could use it! The store creates a lot of income for St. Matthew's to serve our church and community. The store is open on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am - 2pm, and during Stephen's Table from 5pm - 6:30pm.

If your teen needs to earn service learning hours, they can do so through volunteering at the store. (Anyone under age 16 must have a parent/adult with them.)

If you are interested in lending a hand, you can show up when we are open, or you can let us know in one of the following ways:

Send an email to **nearlynewcrew@gmail.com**Contact **Kathy Zimmer** by cell at **412-287-7483** or by email at **kathyzimmer24@gmail.com**

Contact **Maryn Fisher** by cell at **240-409-6845** or by email at **mhffisher@comcast.net**.

Contact Julie Hartman in her office at 301-334-2510 ext. 3 or by email at:

episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com

ministers of today's service

| Celebrant | The Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Reader | Kendall Ludwig | | |
| Chalicist | Linda Eisenhart | | |

prayer list

We pray each Sunday and Thursday for members, relatives and friends of this faith community who have asked for our prayers. You may call Julie in the Church Office at 301-334-2510 ext. 3 or email your request to:

episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com

Let us pray to the Lord and for each other, especially for Chip Lee; Nancy Ihloff; Ron Peterson; Michael Marine; Bonnie Winters; Kathy & Elon O'Connor; Mary Ely; Karen Wooddell; Smith Lantz; Barb Riley; John Jorgensen; Hugh & Dolores Andrew; Jessie Harris; Dave Arnold; Mary Ann Crawford; John Amato; Michael Null; Gene (Kim) McGill; Bernie Ferguson; Madalyn Hoffeditz; Megan Morin; Marshall Stacy; Sharon Pyle; Butch Virts; Roberta Seward; the Hodge-Williams Family; Don Loomis; John & Brenda Rathgeb; Frances Sharpless; Laura Tasker; Walt Tasker; and for all whom we hold in our hearts this day.

(Silence)

In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St. Luke's, Brownsville; St. Mark's, Lappans; St. Paul's, Sharpsburg.

We also pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers.

In the Anglican communion we pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania.

For relatives and friends of this faith community serving the victims of disasters and political unrest around the world, for those who are in harm's way in war zones, and for those who are working for peace everywhere.

For all victims of natural disaster, terrorism, war, economic and environmental injustice and addiction.

Members of our Faith Community for whom we are praying

Jeff Arnold, Linda Ludwig Baker; Lexie Byrne; Joseph R. Clark, Sr., Dave Culler, Susie Culler, Carolyn Germain, Kathleen Gibbs, Larry Glatt, Amy Harmon, Stephanie Hawtof & Kevin Rissell; Kolby Hefner, Samantha Hodge-Williams; Dan Jonson, Smith Lantz, Kim Lovett & Family, Madeline Meister, Brenda Rathgeb, Kat & Matt Rayner, Paula and David Seaman, Kip Senholzi, and Gavin Tasker.

also

Little ones have a place at St. Matthew's!

Our Sunday school and nursery are upstairs in the Parish Hall. Please ask anyone for directions.

Stay in touch with us digitally!

To receive the Parish E-news, please add your name, address, phone number, and email address to the guest register just inside the door of the narthex, or use the form on our website home page at www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org. When you are not able to be with us on Sunday, you can watch the livestream at 10 a.m. on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays of the month.

In case of rare snow closures or sudden changes in our worship schedule, we will send an email to our address list announcing the change.

Please note that we delete addresses that report as nonexistent and cause our emails to bounce back. Make sure you add episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com to your computer's address book to ensure that our email does not end up in your spam folder.

Sunday, October 5th - "Puppy Church" at St. Matthew's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 am Sunday School upstairs in the parish hall Coffee hour in the chancel immediately

following the service

Thursday, October 2nd at St. Matthew's

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II - The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

Sunday, October 12th at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 am Sunday School upstairs in the parish hall

Coffee hour in the fellowship room immediately following the service

sunday schedule

October 12 (Chip's return) *St. John's*

October 19
St. John's
October 26
St. Matthew's
November 2
St. John's
November 9 (Seekers)
St. Matthew's
November 16
St. John's
November 23rd
St. Matthew's
November 30th
St. Matthew's

weekly

1st and 3rd Sunday at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 am Sunday School downstairs

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at St. Matthew's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 am Sunday School in the Parish Hall

Wednesday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

11 am It's in the Bag Packing at St. John's

Thursday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

Friday & Saturday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

monthly

third Sunday

6 pm EpiscoPals (none scheduled at this time)

next-to-the-last Thursday

5 - 6:30 pm Stephen's Table (October 23rd)

monthly

12 noon Seekers - parish hall (November 9th)

The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

the episcopal diocese of maryland

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 126 East Liberty Street Oakland, Maryland 21550

St. John's Episcopal Church 5234 Maryland Highway Oakland, Maryland 21550

Office phone: 301-334-2510 ext. 3

Website: www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org E-mail: episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com Parish office hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

clergy

The Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent

Bishop of Maryland

The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

Rector, St. Matthew's; Vicar, St. John's

The Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch

Assistant Priest for Christian Formation, St. Matthew's

staff

Julie Hartman

Parish Administrator

Krysta Huxford

Senior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mark Ludwig

Junior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mike Voelkel

Senior Warden, St. John's

Gladys Virts

Junior Warden, St. John's

Leah DeLauder

Music Director

vestry/advisory board members

St. Matthew's Vestry

St. John's Advisory Board

Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch ~ Assistant Priest

Mary Jane Fike ~ St. Matthew's Julie Hartman ~ Parish Administrator

Dane Huxford ~ St. Matthew's

Krysta Huxford ~ Senior Warden, St. Matthew's

Rev. Dr. Chip Lee ~ Vicar, St. John's/Rector, St. Matthew's

Mark Ludwig ~ Junior Warden, St. Matthew's

Liz Morin ~ St. Matthew's Leslie Roper ~ St. Matthew's Larry Shipe ~ St. John's

Mike Shirey ~ Treasurer, St. John's Gladys Virts ~ Junior Warden, St. John's

Mikey Virts ~ St. Matthew's

Mike Voelkel ~ Senior Warden, St. John's Bonnie Winters ~ Treasurer, St. Matthew's

The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

A Believing Community Diverse in its Faith; Unified in its Purpose

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
126 East Liberty Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550

St. John's Episcopal Church
5234 Maryland Highway
Deer Park, Maryland 21550

301-334-2510 www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org

