

CAC serves those in need with food and in other ways 9 to 11am, Monday through Friday. Please call 931-598-5927.

Home Communion is available from the clergy and lay Eucharistic Visitors; please contact Deacon Betty Carpenter at deacon@stmarkstpaul.org.

The mission of the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul is

to worship God,
to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ,
to serve the world for which Christ died,
to educate and nurture our community,
and welcome all.

A Personal Take on Gratitude

On Sunday, I went to an English-language, Anglican church in Rio de Janeiro, where I am visiting my wife's family. It was a relatively small congregation - about 50 people - and the Brazilian priest spoke English, only occasionally stumbling over words.

In his sermon he quoted a rabbi, whose name and exact words I cannot recall, but the gist of it was this: even good things are bad for us if we do not give thanks for them. Food to eat, shelter, friends, even these things can corrode our soul if we are not thankful.

This message struck a chord in me, perhaps because I am on vacation in Brazil and have many things to be grateful for. I have more than I need. For this reason, perhaps, it is especially important for me to remember that what I have is a gift. Remembering this from time to time helps me to hold a little less tightly to what I have. If everything is a gift then it's a little easier to give it away.

As my wife pointed out to me, there is a danger in telling other people to be grateful for what they have. It doesn't acknowledge the parts of their lives that are difficult, the ways in which they've worked hard, the obstacles they've overcome, the disadvantages they've been born with, the suffering, seen and unseen, that they endure. No one wants to be told to be grateful for what they've had when they're struggling to make ends meet, for example, or when they're fighting cancer, especially not by a privileged, healthy person like me.

Still, my personal take on giving thanks for everything I've been given is that I'm reminded each time that I don't necessarily deserve everything I have. I have earned very little of it. This is true for all of us—our circumstances, our families, many aspects of our lives are not chosen or earned. We simply received them when we were born, whether we wanted them or not, for better or worse.

Remembering this gives me a little more empathy for other people who do not have the privileges I have. It keeps me from acting out of fear of losing what I have, and, I hope, leads me to be more generous toward those who have hard lives or work two jobs to feed their families or were born into poverty.

I believe that gratitude can be good for all of us, but I won't presume to tell you to be grateful for what you have. I will simply tell you that, for me, it's a tactic for keeping things in perspective. It's a way to remember that everything I have is a gift.

Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul
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The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022

Masking is required indoors according to the latest CDC level. (Medium)

*The 8:30 service is open to those who are fully vaccinated for COVID;
the 11:00 am service is open to all.*

*Rest rooms are available in Claiborne Parish House,
the building directly behind the church.*

Prelude

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity Prayer Book (red) page 355

Gloria (8:30 am service) page 356

Song of Praise, Hymn 390 (11:00am service): "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
(Lobe den Herren)

Collect of the Day (insert)

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7 (insert)

Psalm 113 (insert)

Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (insert)

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13 (insert)

Sermon The Rev. Robert C. Lamborn

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace (maintaining distance between households) page 360

Announcements

Offertory Hymn 676 (*both services*): “There is a balm in Gilead” (*Balm in Gilead*)

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A) page 361

Sanctus, Hymnal, S129 (*11:00 am service*)

The Lord’s Prayer (Contemporary)

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.
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Communion of the People

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. Anyone may come forward to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available; simply ask the priest. The consecrated wine is available from a chalice to share with in your household.

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Visitors (*when needed*)

(in unison) In the name of this parish, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer page 365

Hymn 594: “God of grace and God of glory” (*Cwm Rhondda*)

Blessing

Dismissal

Postlude

The arrangement at the altar today is given to the greater glory of God by Leah Rhys in memory of Maida and Arno Schwantes.

Vestry of the Day — Diane Jones

Bread Baker — Diane Jones

Altar Guild—Robin Bates, Barbara Prunty

Tellers — Lauryl Tucker

Flowers—Peggy Peterson

Coffee Hour —

8:30 am service

Server — Lucas Crossland

Chalice Bearer — Julia Bates

11:00 am service

Tom DuMontier

Tom DuMontier

Readers—Dorothy Gates, Lucas Crossland

Intercessor — Julia Bates

Audio/video—Lucas Crossland

Acolytes—

Usher(s) — Bruce Baird

Kathryn Bruce, Alex Bruce

Lauryl Tucker

Jamie Pappas, Ian Tucker

Kathryn & Alex Bruce

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Holy Cross, Murfreesboro

Prayer Requests: Paul Cahoon, Leigh Ann Campbell, Corky Carlisle, Bill Davis, David Goodpaster, Elizabeth Grammer, Ed Hawkins, Sue Hawkins, Armeda Holmes, David Kearley, Waring McCrady, John Noland, Evelyn Raines, George Ramseur, Leah Rhys, Sarah Margaret Roberts, Craig Scott, Michelle Gompper Spear, Jennifer Sturgis–Cummings, Greg Taylor, Freddie Tucker, those suffering from COVID-19, and the people of Ukraine.

Birthdays: Lauren Goodpaster, Bruce McMillan, Bruce Baird, Ken Taylor

8:30 am Holy Eucharist in the church for those fully vaccinated plus at least 2 weeks.

The 8:30 am service is also livestreamed on our [Facebook page](#) and remains available there afterward. **11:00am Holy Eucharist** open to all, outdoors weather permitting.

Connections for Parents: All parents and caregivers are invited to gather for conversation on Sunday mornings while the children have Sunday school. The class will meet on the front porch of Brooks Hall for fellowship, support, and reflection on the hopes we have for our children. This will include discussion of short passages from *Looking for God in Messy Places: A Book About Hope*, by the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby. The book is available for purchase at the University Book Store or on Amazon. The Rev. Giulianna Cappelletti Gray, Priest Associate, is the facilitator for the meetings.

Youth Sunday School: 9:45-10:45am on the upstairs porch of Brooks Hall and/or in the upstairs youth room. Please bring a mask. This Sunday— Tom DuMontier & Alex Bruce— “Slaves in Egypt”. Please bring a mask.

Godly Play for Children: Two Montessori-based classes meet 9:45-10:45am in the Godly Play rooms or outdoors, depending on weather and Covid risk. Please bring a mask.

This Sunday in Godly Play:

GP 1—“The Ark & the Tent”—Teacher: Barbara Prunty, Doorkeeper—Aaron Elrod

GP 2—“The Story of Joseph”— Teacher—Julia Bates, Doorkeeper—

The Sunday Forum – 9:45 –10:45. This week, the Rev. Scott Lee will speak on “Aspects of the Community in which Jesus Lived and of the Community Jesus Gathered around Him”. A graduate of both the college (’73) and the School of Theology (’92), Lee also has a master’s degree in English Literature from Vanderbilt (’78). He was ordained in 1992 and has served congregations in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Connecticut. He retired to Sewanee in 2018 and is currently preparing for certification as a spiritual director. He is passionate about Hawai’i, The Divine Comedy, and being an amateur chef.

Nursery services: Infants and toddlers through three year olds are invited to gather on the playground to form relationships with one another and have fun on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to noon. The nursery will be held at the playground of St. Mark and St. Paul, or in the child care classroom at the lower level of Claiborne Hall.

Fire on the Mountain Pizza & Swim Party—4-6pm today at Lake Cheston.