



EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



HOLY EUCHARIST WITH THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE FEAST OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

OCTOBER 15, 2023
10:00 A.M.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
21 STRATFORD STREET
WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132
WWW.EMMANUELWR.ORG

"Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing.

"Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labour to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?"

"The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

Levavi oculos

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

For the beauty of the earth

H82 #416

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Jonathan T. Eden

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to God:

For the artistry of spinning Spiders, the industry of Ants, for all alert animals of field and forest, for
Squirrels that gather, Chipmunks that chatter, and for Mice that burrow

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the splendor of the great deep and sparkling streams, for Water Bugs and Dolphins, for all Fish and all
sea-life, and for the sheer size of Whales

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For all things that fly and have taught us to reach upward, for Pelicans and Parakeets, Barn Owls and
Peacocks, for Eagles that soar, and for Birds that nest in eaves and attics, reminding us that we are not
alone.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For beasts that lumber, for Elephants and Hippos, Grizzly Bears and Tortoises, Porcupines and Three-toed
Sloths, and for all creatures that remind us not to hurry.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For graceful beasts, for the Great Cats, for Gazelle, for Giraffe, and for Flamingos, Fox, and Fawns.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the animals that work for human good, for Horses, Oxen, Mules, and beasts of burden, for Dogs who
lead the blind and track the lost.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the animals that share our homes, for faithful Dogs and purring Cats, and all creatures that teach us to
love without judgement, for Hamsters, Birds, assorted Reptiles, and Rabbits.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

Give us grace to learn from the animal kingdom that you created all things, that we might work together for
a truly common good.

Hear us, O Lord.

Deliver us from the presumption that we are creation's central act, remind us, who are redeemed by a Cross,
that these your animals are redeemed by an Ark of your grace.

Hear us, O Lord.

Make of us proper stewards of all creation, that caring for your creatures and for their homes, we may come
at last to that Peaceable Kingdom where Lion and Lamb lie down together.

Hear us, O Lord.

Priest O God, creator of all things, we remember before you today your servant Francis, who preached to
Birds and gave his cloak to a Beggar. Give us the grace of Francis, that we may be instruments of
your peace. Give us generous spirits, that we, with reckless and joyful abandon, may sow your truth
throughout the world. Give us the mind of Christ, that we may accept all who call upon your name,

that Birds and Beggars and all creation may all be drawn into that kingdom, which lives forever in your presence through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Priest Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Pause)

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.

Priest 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 of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN Lord, make us servants of your peace

H82 #593

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.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

**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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

All We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Michael, Alan, and Carol our bishops, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember especially Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Hingham, St. John's Church, Holbrook, Trinity Church, Marshfield, Church of Our Saviour, Milton, the Order of St. Luke and all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all those who have asked for our prayers, especially Stanley, Peter, Felix, Mary, Catherine, Michael, Parker, Sergio, Martha, Anne, Patricia, Barbara, Maureen, Rachael, Louise, Scott, Kathleen, Paul, Eddy, Christopher, Michael Curry, and for those we now name either silently or aloud.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; especially Alfred, and those we now name either silently or aloud. Bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]**

Agnus Dei

H82 #S164

Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Together, 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

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all persons, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And the blessing of God, who creates, redeems, and sanctifies all things, be upon you this day, and remain with you forever.

CLOSING HYMN

All creatures of our God and King

H82 #400

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. [Alleluia, Alleluia.]

People **Thanks be to God. [Alleluia, Alleluia.]**

POSTLUDE

PLEASE JOIN US ON THE LAWN FOR THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL CHURCH

We are glad that you joined us today and pray that you will know God's presence through our worship and in this community. Wherever you are in your journey with God or toward God you are welcome here. Indeed, you are invited and welcome here in our pews and in all the things we do together as a community each week. We would also love to be in better touch throughout the year. Please reach out to our Bridge Priest, the Rev. Jonathan Eden at therev.jonteden@gmail.com or [617.798.0700](tel:617.798.0700) for more information.

We meet every Sunday for worship at 10:00 A.M. and you can also learn more about who we are and what we do together through our Web and Social Media pages:

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Web



SERVING TODAY

Celebrant and Preacher
Altar Server
Altar Guild
Lector
Gift Bearers
Organist

The Rev. Jonathan Eden
Terri Halliday
Terri Halliday, Gail Halpin-Evans
Seraiah Belfon
Weekly volunteers
Esther Kwok

PARISH DIRECTORY

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|-------------------|--|---|--|
| The Parish Office | 21 Stratford St, WR 02132 617-323-1440 www.emmanuelwr.org | Vestry Co-Wardens Treasurer Clerk Vestry | Terri Halliday Ken Thelen Kellon Belfon Anne Jackson Ed Fleming Gail Halpin-Evans Cathy McCarthy Seraiah Belfon |
| Bridge Priest | The Rev. Jonathan Eden therev.jonteden@gmail.com 617.798.0700 | | |
| Office Hours | Tues 10 a.m. –5:30 p.m. | Social Media Leader | |

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please be in touch with The Rev. Jonathan Eden.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 15 **St. Francis' Day/Blessing of the Animals**

We are celebrating the Feast of St. Francis today, with animal blessings and more afterwards!
Animals are welcome at the service today.