

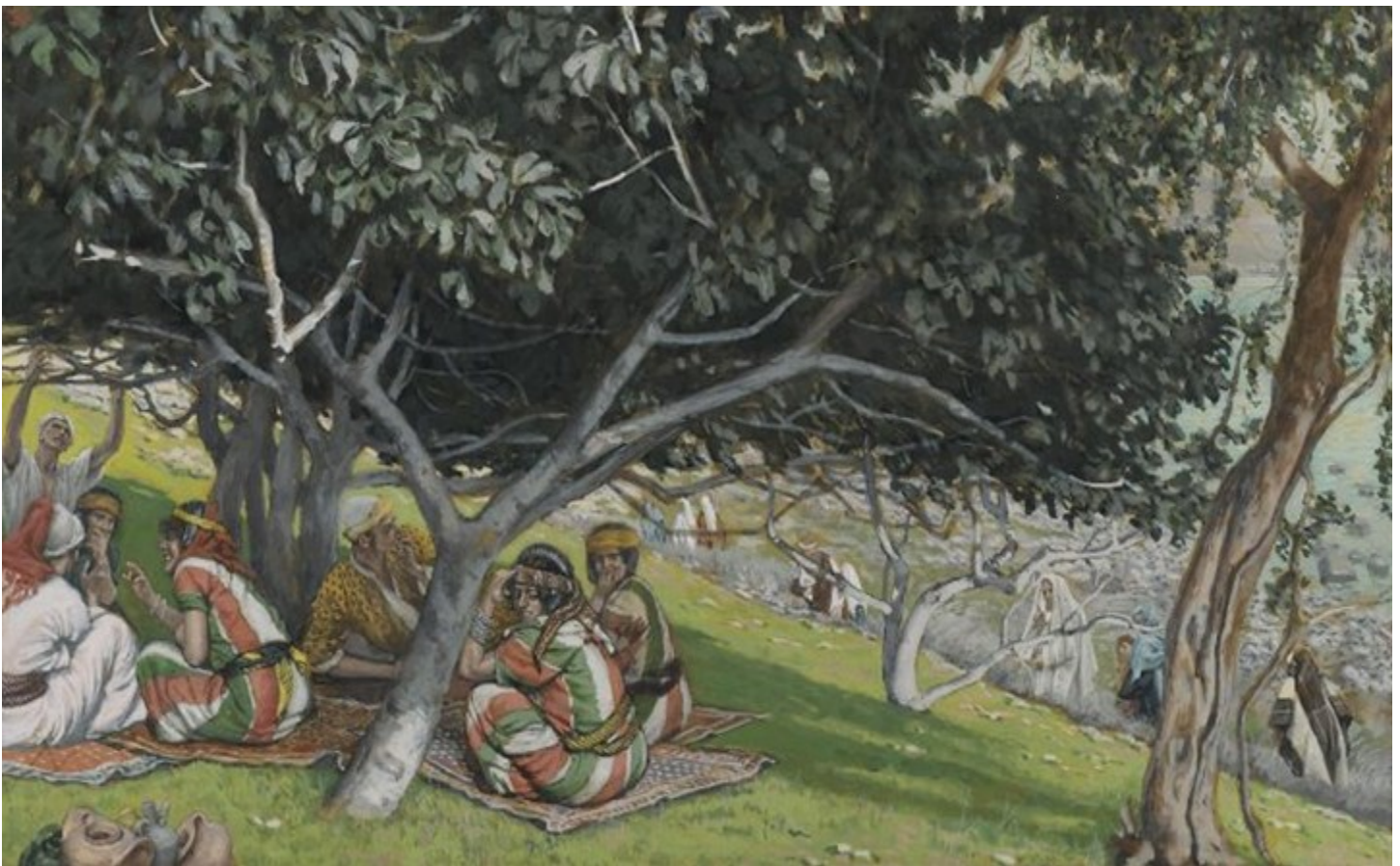
# THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:00 a.m., January 17, 2021

St. Francis Episcopal Church

*Celebrating God's Love with Everyone*

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Tissot, James, 1836-1902. "Nathanael Under the Fig Tree"

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 6-Feb 24	Zoom Book Study
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Wise People Party
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	BYOS Burn Your Own Steak
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Eucharist Rite 2 at 9:00 am followed by Annual Meeting

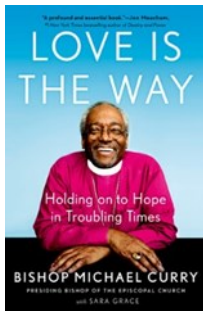
## WISE PEOPLE PARTY



Drive by and donate fresh produce and non-perishable items to help restock our Food Pantry.

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 1pm-4pm in the St. Francis Parking lot.

For additional information please contact Nancy Franklin at [nancyblake.franklin@gmail.com](mailto:nancyblake.franklin@gmail.com)



Wednesday night ZOOM book study is continuing their study on 'Love is the Way' by Bishop Michael Curry. Join each Wednesday evening at 6:15pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/92939189831>



## BYOS (Burn your own steak)

Join us January 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6pm at the Pavilion for fellowship

Bring your own steak, chicken etc. to grill and a side to share.



## Combined Service & Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 at 9am

followed by our Annual Meeting at 10am

Please join us for a hybrid in person and virtual Annual Meeting. Log in invitations coming soon.

**Welcome to St. Francis Episcopal Church.** We are thankful for your presence among us and hope you will return often. You come with our prayers, you leave with our prayers, and we ask that you keep us in your prayers.

————— **TO HELP MAKE OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE** —————  
**TOGETHER MORE MEANINGFUL WE ASK THAT YOU:**

- Please silence your cell phones. Please do participate!
- We welcome children. There are children’s packs for coloring – please take one and take it home after the service. *\*These packs have been put together with sanitized hands and are not reused.*
- The entire worship service is printed in this bulletin. Your parts are printed in bold. Please take your copy home and pray for at least one person on the prayer list throughout the week.
- Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let him speak to you. After the service, speak to others.
- All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are welcome to receive Communion at the Lord’s table. To receive Communion, place one hand over the other with palms facing upward. Communion will be offered of one kind, bread only, at this time. Please let the celebrant know if you need a gluten free wafer. If you would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.
- If you are new to St. Francis or if you have just returned to services, please introduce yourself to our priest after the service. The Rev. Carrie Guerra is our Rector and she would love to meet you!

**ARE YOU VISITING TODAY?**

If you’d like to receive our weekly E-newsletter, “The E-Pistle,” contact the Church office and we can put you on our list.

St. Francis Episcopal Church  
sfc@sfcsa.org      www.sfcsa.org  
4242 Bluemel Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78240    210-696-0834  
Like us on Facebook and Instagram  
Office Hours: M-F 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

The Rev. Carrie Guerra.....Rector, cguerra@sfcsa.org  
Joshua Molnar.....Deacon  
De’Anna Jenner ..... Parish Administrator, djenner@sfcsa.org  
Joe Alexander..... Maintenance  
Joshua Sanchez..... Custodial  
Michelle Prochko ..... Organist  
Pablo Aguilar ..... Organist/Keyboardist

**VESTRY**

Stephen Walter.....Sr. Warden	Creighton Brown.....Member
Courtney Martin.....Jr. Warden	Martin Fell.....Member
Liz Branaum ..... Treasurer	Kandice Garcia.....Member
Susan Correa.....Clerk	Anna Saulsbury-Molina.....Member
Joe Bayardo..... Member	Aimee Molnar.....Member

**The Processional**

**O Praise Him**

David Crowder

Turn your ear to heaven  
And hear the noise inside  
The sound of angel's awe  
The sound of angel's songs  
And all this for a King  
We could join and sing  
All to Christ the King  
How constant how divine  
This song of ours will rise  
O how constant how divine  
This love of ours will rise will rise

O praise Him O praise Him  
He is holy  
He is holy yeah

Turn your gaze to heaven  
And raise a joyous noise  
The sound of salvation come  
The sound of rescued ones  
And all this for a King  
Angels join to sing  
All for Christ the King  
How infinite and sweet  
This love so rescuing  
O how infinitely sweet  
This great love that has redeemed  
As one we sing

Alleluia alleluia  
He is holy  
He is holy yeah

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

*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant:*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Gloria

S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## Collect of the Day

BCP 215

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you,**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## The Old Testament

**1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)**

*Reader:* A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17**

**BCP 794-795**

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>2</sup> You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>3</sup> Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- <sup>4</sup> You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>5</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- <sup>12</sup> For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>13</sup> I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- <sup>14</sup> My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>15</sup> Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>16</sup> How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!
- <sup>17</sup> If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

*Reader:* A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Sequence Hymn

*Thy strong word did cleave the darkness*

**Hymnal #381 v.1**

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing  
 it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,  
 while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!



## The Gospel

John 1:43-51

*Officiant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

The Rev. Carrie Guerra

**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.**

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

## **Prayers of the People**

**BCP 387**

*Leader:* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; We give thanks for St. Peter's, Rockport; and St. Margaret's, San Antonio.

*People:* **That we all may be one.**

*Leader:* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*People:* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Leader:* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*People:* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Leader:* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*People:* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Leader:* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People:* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Leader:* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; We pray for Alexander, Bridgit, Cheryl, Deb, Elissa, Faith and Ed, George, Greg, Jack and Sandi, Jacque, Makenna, Manuel, Mary, Margaret, Milo, Miriam, Norma, Patricia J, Ralph, Richard, Scott D., Zachery, Becky, Daryl, Michelle, Patricia and Paul.

*People:* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Leader:* Give to the departed eternal rest;

*People:* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Leader:* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*People:* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

*Please kneel as you are able.*

**BCP 360**

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Holy 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.**

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**

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Please remain in your seating area for distanced peace offering.*

## **Welcome**

## **Birthday and Anniversary Prayers**

**Flower Dedication:** *In celebration of Zuri's 11th Birthday, granddaughter of Bob & Oksana Snow*

*In celebration of Lindsay's Birthday daughter of Larry and Susan Correa*

## **Announcements**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

## **Offertory Sentence**

**BCP 376**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:2*

*Unison or harmony*

1 Lord, thou hast searched me and dost know wher -  
 2 My words from thee I can - not hide; I  
 3 Where can I go a - part from thee, or  
 4 If I the wings of morn - ing take, and  
 5 If deep - est dark - ness cov - er me, the

1 e'er I rest, wher - e'er I go; thou know - est all  
 2 feel thy power on ev - ery side; oh, won - drous know -  
 3 whith - er from thy pres - ence flee? In heaven? It is  
 4 far a - way my dwell - ing make, the hand that lead -  
 5 dark - ness hid - eth not from thee; to thee both night

1 that I have planned, and all my ways are in thy hand.  
 2 ledge, aw - ful might, un - fath - omed depth, un - mea - sured height!  
 3 thy dwell - ing fair; in death's a - bode? Lo, thou art there.  
 4 eth me is thine, and my sup - port thy power di - vine.  
 5 and day are bright, the dark - ness shin - eth as the light.

Words: *The Psalter Hymnal*, 1927; para. of Psalm 139:1-11 Music: *Tender Thought*, from *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816 Copyright © Yale University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Doxology** (*As offerings are presented.*)

**Hymnal #380 v 3**

\*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

*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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus**

**Hymnal #S125**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us

from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Francis and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

*Officiant and People*

**BCP 364**

**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.**

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*



*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**

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**Recessional Hymn**

*How bright appears the Morning Star*

**Hymnal #497**

(Found on next page, pg.18)

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the spirit.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
 2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
 3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
 pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
 fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
 the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
 In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
 phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
 Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.



## WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, transgender, and filthy rich or dirt poor. And to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail, or who could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Barbra Streisand or Taylor Swift, or you can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up, or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been to church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk-food eaters.

We welcome those in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.

If you blew your offertory money at the dirt track, you're welcome here.

We offer a special welcome to those who think the world is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because Grandma is in town and she wanted to go to church today.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and YOU!