

October 4, 2026

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:00 FAMILY HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE COMBINED SERVICE		
Procession In, standing	How Firm a Foundation	Hymnal 636
The Opening Sentences	Book of Common Prayer (BCP)	355
Song of Praise	The Gloria	Hymnal S278
The Collect		

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

Note: God as a master gardener is a familiar image in the Bible, even in the Genesis story we see it. Creation is made for continuing creation, to continue the good purposes of God's creative power. Prophets often note God's disappointment when we despoil the work of his hands.

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with
briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;
righteousness, but heard a cry!.

Psalm: 80:7-14 Qui regis Israel

Note: This is a lament and a confession. The psalmist recognizes the fault of human beings in failing to care for the gift of sustenance they have received and urge the help of God to build up what is broken.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; * you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 You prepared the ground for it; * it took root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered by its shadow * and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea * and its branches to the River.

12 Why have you broken down its wall, * so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, * and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine; * preserve what your right hand has planted.

The Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14

Note: We continue the semi-continuous reading of this beautiful letter. Here Paul holds up the immeasurable greatness of his sustaining faith over all other, especially material things. But it is more that simply a present consolation, it is the springboard to the future, to hope.

f anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Sequence Hymn, standing Christ in the World's True Light Hymnal 542

The Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Note: The Parable of the Wicked Tenants is directed at the Temple leadership, though it is good to understand that the disciples and other are listening as well. There is a problem with the self-serving leadership, but it is a human problem as well, one that we all share.

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable

death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Homily	The Rev Dr James B. Stutler D. Min	
	Followed by silence for reflection	
The Nicene Creed, standing		BCP 358
The Prayers of the People, kneeling or standing		
Greetings and Announcements		
The Confession of Sin		BCP 359
The Peace, standing		
The Offertory	Come, Follow Me	Choir
	The Holy Communion	
	Rite II, Prayer B	
The Doxology, standing		Hymnal 380, v 3
The Great Thanksgiving		
The Sursum Corda		BCP 367
The Scantus		Hymnal S134
The Canon, kneeling or standing		
THE GREAT AMEN		BCP 368
The Lord's Prayer		BCP 364
Breaking of the Bread		BCP 364
Fraction Anthem		Hymnal S169
Communion	Prayer for Peace	Choir
Post Communion Prayer, kneeling or standing		BCP 365
Commissioning of Eucharistic Vistiors		
Priest:	On behalf of this congregation, I give you these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communioin of Christ's body and blood.	
People:	We send you forth with the body and blood of Christ.	
Recessional Hymn	God Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven	Hymnal 580
The Blessing		
the Dismissal Response	Thanks be to God	BCP 366

WE PRAY FOR:

Our Parish Family, especially

- ✚ CLAIRES, MARGE, FRAN, LINDA, DAVID, MARK, MISSY, LESLIE, BILL, AMANDA, CAROLE, JUDITH, ANN, AL, HUBIE, ROBIN, TED, DAKOTA, CARL, JEAN, MARY, WAYNE, ELIZABETH, KAREN, and DEACON JUDITH.
- ✚ FR . JAMIE.
- ✚ THE MINISTRIES OF ST. CLEMENT'S.
- ✚ HEIDI AND RUSS, missionaries to Chile and for the variety of ministries & lives they impact.

Those in the Armed Forces, especially

- ✚ TY. NICK, BRANDON, MAGGIE, STEPHEN, ELIJAH, BRIAN, ALEXANDRA, DAVID, & LAUREN.

Others needing Intercessory Prayer:

- ✚ KAIHAH, MAKEIGHLA, DOMINIC BOB, RACHEL, MARY, EZRA, ROWEN, CHRIS, PATTI, BOB, MICHAEL, KIRSI, DIANE, ROB, LUPINA, JOY, BRUCE, CHRISTOPHER, JANCIE, BAILEY, ROBERTO, SARAH, MICHELLE, BARBARA, SANTOS, & CHUCK.

- ✚ COMFORT: THE BARRE FAMILY
- ✚ ARBOR: THE CONGREGANTS AT THE ARBOR

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

Please take the bulletin home and pray for these concerns during the week. Parish family & intercessory prayer requests stay on the list for two months unless extended, updated, or deleted sooner. Armed forces requests stay for one year. Notify the church office at 770-345-6722 or Trish Cole at 770-377-4348 to update requests. Prayer request cards are in church pews or call the church office.

Life is a Gift

Life is a gift. This is what all the scriptures teach us and yet, I think, it is one of the hardest of the central understandings of the gospel for us to keep in mind. I can easily see the gift of life when I walk through the woods or listen to the birds outside my window or have one of those moments when the sheer beauty of life overwhelms me.

However, the gift is harder to see on the interstate highway system when you and countless of your fellow human beings are doing precisely what the highway was designed to do: get you as rapidly from point A to point B. It is hard to see when we are engaged in all the complications of living, of paying our bills, of negotiating our health care, or when we find ourselves drawn into the ever-present political fracas of our time.

And yet it is precisely in those distracting moments that God calls us back to our central focus. The gospel is nothing if it is not defiance. In the face of oppression, it shouts freedom. In the face of anxiety and worry, it declares peace and shalom. In the face of shame and guilt, it breathes out a new beginning. In the face of fear and insecurity, it counters with an inexplicable generosity of spirit.

This Sunday we have the parable of the Wicked Tenants who are given stewardship over a vineyard carefully built to produce fruit. Their lesser angels take them over and they refuse to share their fruit even with the landowner. Grasping has taken them over, a grasping that has the seeds of its own destruction. It will not be long before they turn on one another.

This, Jesus teaches us, is a fatal distraction from the truth. Life is a gift, not a possession. Possessions can come to own us. Gifts free us since they are given to us out of love, received in love, and cared for through love.

Remembering we are stewards of a gift empowers us to pass along the gifts we have receive to others, to the work of God's love, to the upbuilding of the world.

Jamie ✚

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us immediately after the service for **A POTLUCK MEAL** across the parking lot in Davis Hall!

10/4 Join us at Hospitality to say Farewell to Liz Bouis and Welcome to Catherine Bergman as we change Parish Administrators! We will have some delicious cake for the celebration in Davis Hall..

10/4 The Vestry will meet after the Potluck Meal at about 12:00pm.

10/11 Daughters of the King
1:00pm in the Vestry Room of Davis Hall.

10/12 Book Club
1:30pm in the Hearth Room of Davis Hall.

10/13 Women's Group/Inbetweeners
11:00am J. Christopher's, 1437 Riverstone Pkwy, Canton. Susan Gensel is leading contact: hickoryfarms@comcast.net

10/20 Senior Seminars begin!
10:00am This first meeting will cover Fire & Emergency Services during this Fire Prevention Month. The meeting is the beginning of a series of seminars dealing with issues common to our seniors and others. More events to be announced!

Tuesday The Men's Group
11:30am at IHOP, 3010 Northside Parkway, Canton. Come for fellowship and fun! Contact: stclementsmensgroup@gmail.com

Bible Study: The Way 1:00-3:00pm in The Vestry Room The group studies the previous Sunday's Readings found in your bulletins. For information contact Anna Marie Smith at 717-713-5819

Wednesday Rector's Bible Study 12:00 noon via Zoom We are studying the Book of Acts. Contact the office for the link. **No Bible Study this week.**

Holy Eucharist 6:15pm each week
—On the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, it is followed by

- 6:45 meal
- 7:00 EYC- **No EYC this week**
- 7:00 Bible Study-The Gifts of Imperfection

Thursday Grief Support Group 10:30am
Meeting in the Hearth Room of Davis Hall.

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler, rector
770-324-2035
Email
frjamie@stclementscanton.org

Liz Bouis, Parish Administrator
Catherine Bergman, Parish Administrator
Gloria Blackburn, Parish Coordinator
770-345-6722
Email
stclements@stclementscanton.org

Path to Shine 2:00-5:00pm Spark a child's imagination and active life! Our youth mentoring program introduces underserved children to creative arts, crafts, and sports they might not otherwise experience.

Friday Centering Prayer 12:30 pm in the Ministry Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. If interested, please contact Fr. Jamie (770.324.2035) or Diane Hodgins (850.339.8540).

Sunday Adult Forum will continue in mid- October.

Liberty Elementary School has an ongoing need for peanut-free snacks for its underprivileged children, nearly 25% of its Student Body. There is a box in the Narthex for collecting your donations.

Online Giving available through our website www.stclementscanton.org by the Vanco app, or you can give online on the Realm app.

Want to Get Involved?
But not sure where to start? Contact Brad Vaughan— he'll help you find your fit! 931-265- 6087 or bradford.vaughan25@gmail.com.

New Bookkeeper Hours
5:30-7:30pm Tuesday & Thursday
Please call for an appointment.

Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursday: 9am -2pm. **Please call before coming by to make sure someone is in the office.**
Scan to visit our website



Serving Today:
VPOD: Doug Blackburn
Crucifer: Tim Hodgins
Gospel Torch: Brad Vaughan
Epistle Torch: Tori Vaughan
LEM: Diane Hodgins
Reader: Moetki Sharp
Teller: Bill McArthur

Birthdays this week:
Arthur Carlan 9/21
Louisa DeBord 9/25
Nathaniel DeBord 9/26
Liam DeBord 9/27
Cory DeBord 10/5
Henry Morgan 10/7
Kay Morrison 10/8
Susan Shearouse 10/10
Ernesto Sosa 10/4

Anniversaries this week:
Dan & Danette Schilling 10/6

TREASURER'S SUMMARY as of August 2026	
Pledges YTD	\$ 170.450
Total Income	\$ 236.220
Total Expenses	\$ 246.030



Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting for the first time, let us know you are here by filling out a visitor's card and ask an usher about a gift we have for you in the narthex (foyer).

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

Regular Sunday Services //9am Contemporary //11am Traditional
First Sunday of each month// 10am Combined Service

MONDAY Al-Anon//12:00pm	THURSDAY Grief Support//10:30am Path-to-Shine//2:00—5:00pm Canton Al-Anon & Alateen//7:00pm
TUESDAY Men's Group, IHOP//11:30am Bible Study: The Way//1:00—3:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous//8:00pm	FRIDAY Morning Prayer (online)//9:00am Service @ the Arbor//10:30am Women's AA//12:00noon Centering Prayer//12:30pm
WEDNESDAY Morning Prayer (online)//9:00am Rector's Zoom Bible Study//12:00pm Women's AA//12:00pm Holy Eucharist//6:15pm Adult Bible Study & EYC//7:00pm 1st and 3rd weeks	

The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Jim Barre & Family in loving memory of Jo Ann Barre and by Danette & Dan Schilling in celebration on their 25th Wedding Anniversary

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Mailing address: PO Box 36, Holly Springs, Georgia 30142-0001
Phone 770-345-6722 | **Web** www.stclementscanton.org