

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 30, 2023

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9AM Family Holy Eucharist,

The words of the liturgy and music are projected on the east wall.

<i>Processional Song</i> Opening Sentences, <i>Book of Common Prayer 355</i> The Liturgy of the Word The Collect of the Day A Reading / Psalm Song The Gospel Sharing the Good News The Creed The Prayers The Confession & Absolution The Peace BCP 360	Welcome & Announcements The Holy Communion <i>Offertory</i> The Great Thanksgiving: The Lord's Prayer BCP364 The Breaking of the Bread The Administration <i>Communion Song</i> Postcommunion Prayer BCP 365 The Blessing <i>Song for the Procession Out</i> The Dismissal BCP366
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11:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude *O Bless the Lord* Hymnal 411 vs. 1-3, 6
The Opening Sentences The Book of Common Prayer, 355

Song of Praise The *Gloria* Hymnal S278 BCP 355

The Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Note: Solomon asks for wisdom, but not for himself. He asks literally for a discerning heart so he can serve the people he has been given charge over. Solomon's desire mirrors God's own action toward his father David and himself: steadfast love. His desire is to be a loving instrument of God. What would you ask God for?

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a

wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Psalm 119:129-136

Note: This, the longest psalm in the psalter, is composed of 176 couplets all asking God for the same thing in a multitude of variations: teach me your way. What might be your couplet in this beautiful succession of human desire toward God?

Mirabilia

- 129 Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
130 **When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.**
131 I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.
132 **Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.**
133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
134 **Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.**
135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.
136 **My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.**

The Epistle: Romans 8:26-39

Note: In one of the most powerful passages in all of Paul's writings there is an important admission and a vital truth. The admission is that we do not have the capacity within us to approach God. The truth is that God always must and always does take the initiative towards us. Before we can ask God for anything we must stand still to receive the truth of our own desire for God and the power to be the receivers of God.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sequence Hymn *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Hymnal 708

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Note: Before Jesus wraps up his teaching for the moment we receive a flurry of parables, all giving us a sense that the Kingdom of God has endless variety which we can only catch glimpses of. Sit with whichever one seems to speak to you and listen deeply. You may hear something you never heard before.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Homily The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler
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* BCP 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION
That Beautiful Land
The Offertory *standing* Hymnal 380 v.3

The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer B BCP 367
The Sursum Corda
The Sanctus Hymnal S130
The Canon *kneeling or standing.*

THE GREAT AMEN, BCP 368
The Lord's Prayer BCP 364
Breaking of the Bread BCP 364
Choir Anthem *Like the Murmur* Hymnal 573

Post Communion Prayer *kneeling or standing* BCP 365

Processional Hymn: *All Praise to Thee* Hymnal 77
The Dismissal Response BCP 366
Thanks be to God.

WE PRAY FOR...

Our Parish Family, especially

✠ MABRY FAMILY, SHARON, ANNIE, MARY, KAREN, JOSEPH, CLYDE, SARAH, EMILY, PAT, ANNA MARIE, AMANDA, WANDA, ROBIN, BILL W., MARK, KIM, TED, FRED, REBA, JOHN D., SCOTT, MARTI, FRAN, DAKOTA. DEACON JUDITH & MARGARET C.

✠ FR . JAMIE.

✠ THE MINISTRIES OF ST. CLEMENT'S.

✠ HEIDI AND RUSS, missionaries to Chile.

Those in the Armed Forces, especially

✠ MARNYCE, JERRY, NICK, BRANDON, MAGGIE, STEPHEN, JAKE, ROSE, DAVID, NOAH, KEVIN & NATHAN.

Others needing Intercessory Prayer:

✠ HEALING: HILARY, BONNIE, GRIFFEN, JESS, JOHN, JIM, DANA, SHONDA, DIANE, SANDRA, DIANE, BEVERLY, DAN, LARAMIE, DON, MARTHA, PAM, CHUCK, THOMAS, BECKY, TIM, PINKIE, ROBIN, MICHELLE, TROY, MICHELLE, KIMBERLY, DALE, KATHLEEN, STEVE, JAN, ANDY, JOHN, IVY, MAEGAN, ORSON, JOANNE, SHI SHI, PAPA RED, MAX, JANE, GILL, TERRY, PATTI, PATTY, JUSTIN, MR. B., CHRIS, BRANDON, ANN, DAVID, ADRIAN, MAN AT KROGER, HEIDI, MICHAEL, LIZ, ANN, TED, CHRISTINE, BILL, PETE, ROBIN, MARY, ALEX, SANDY, TIMOTHY, DEBBIE & SAM.

✠ COMFORT: PAT, RYAN & PEGGY & FAMILY.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

Please take the bulletin home and pray for these concerns during the week.
Please contact Trish Cole to update your prayer requests at

770-377-4348 or trishcole4@gmail.com

Prayer request cards are available on the back of the pews.

Desiring the Kingdom

What is the Kingdom of God? Is it where God is an autocrat, controlling all people's actions and choices, as human autocrats seek to do? No, God's Kingdom means that all human comparisons fail (which is why Jesus teaches us in those mysterious parables).

Nevertheless, it does concern the highest yearning of human beings, a recognition that the world is not what it should be and a deep desire that all things will be set right. It is the pearl of great price and the treasure in the field. It is what we pray for: thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

The usual ancient human choices in light of the current state of affairs sound familiar. Separate oneself from the world, on the one hand, or make what peace you can, on the other, until God comes and fixes everything. Or, the perennial favorite of declaring a holy war as the purported emissary of God.

Jesus will have none of these options. Instead, he calls us all into the Kingdom of God he announces, all of us, the good, the bad, and ugly (as in the parable of the great catch of fish). He sees in us even the tiniest spark of holy desire hidden deep within us (the parable of the mustard seed and the leaven) and seeks to draw it out, exploit it, expand it beyond what even we ourselves can imagine.

The kingdom of God is the power of God working in us, God's Spirit moving us forward toward Christ's final consummation of setting all things right.

But it is going to cost us (again, the parable of the pearl and the treasure). It is going to cost us, first, by requiring us to let go of our own way of seeing and looking at the world in a different way and, second, by living into that new way. It is about such mundane things as turning the other cheek, walking the extra mile, and giving away our coat as well as our cloak.

By such generous love we are both places where the kingdom of God is already happening and signposts pointing toward its perfection.

How might we start today? Where might we start today?

Jamiet

UPCOMING EVENTS

No Adult Forum today

Hospitality:

We need people to sign up for hospitality. The requirements are simple-just bring some bagels or donuts. Signup online through the link in the newsletter or contact Jennifer Morgan jmorgan39@gsu.edu. We have had some interest expressed in returning 11 a.m. hospitably. If there is interest we need a volunteer to lead.

Episcopal Youth

8/27 p.m. Meal begins at 6:40 with activities following.

Wednesday Bible Study:

8/27 p.m. We will be begin our study of Galatians, using the book St. Francis and the Christian Life by April Love-Fordham. This book teaches Galatians the way Jesus taught: through parables. In this case, the parables are about Saint Francis. Each section ends with a spiritual practice designed to help readers discover their own unique way of living the Christian life. The book is available on Amazon. Join us!

Parent Meeting:

8/6 9 a.m. There will be a meeting for parents with children in Christian Education to discuss the curriculum for the coming year.

Combined Service:

8/6 10 a.m. with potluck immediately following. Please do not bring a desert as we will be also having an ice cream social.

Women's Group/Inbetweeners

8/8 11 a.m. J. Christopher's, 1437 Riverstone Pkwy, Canton. Susan Gensel is leading contact: hickoryfarms@comcast.net

ECW

8/21 7 p.m. Davis Hall. Contact Wanda Carr (404) 861-5011 or wandakiddcarr@gmail.com

Wine 'n Cheese 'n Jazz

9/9 4-6 p.m. Davis Hall. An evening celebrating us! Register online

Daughters of the King

9/11 1 p.m. Davis Hall to begin Faith Moves Mountains by Harris Faulkner. There will be no meeting in July or August Contact: Trish Cole trishcole4@gmail.com.

Book Club

9/11 1:30 p.m. to discuss **The House in the Pines** by Ana Reyes. The Book Club will not meet in August. Contact: Sallee Macknik sallee_m@yahoo.com.

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler, *rector*
770-324-2035

email frjamie@stclements canton.org

Carlotta Ford, *administrator*
770-345-6722

email stclements@stclements canton.org

Rector's Wednesday Zoom Noon Bible Study
Study of the Gospel of John continues. Contact the office for the Zoom link.

The Altar Guild has dates available on the flower chart if you have someone or something special you would like to commemorate. The chart is in the notebook in the narthex and cost is now \$50. Please contact Trish Cole (770)-377-4348 or trishcole4@gmail.com to join the team.

The Men's Group

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. (IHOP, 3010 Northside Parkway, Canton)
Contact: stclements mensgroup@gmail.com.

St. Clement's newest music ensemble is the **Joyful Noise Band**. If you play a musical instrument, we'd love to have you join us! The band plays 9 a.m. every 3rd Sunday. Contact Judy Reardon -judy.reardon@icloud.com.

Wednesday Night:

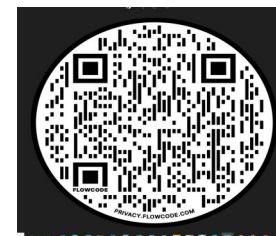
Wednesday evening Holy Eucharist begins at 6:15. Wednesday Youth and Bible Study is on hiatus until school resumes in August.

Online Giving available through our website www.stclements canton.org or by the Vanco app on your smart phone.

Parish Directory:

We are currently updating the parish directory. If you have your information in the previous directory AND the information is correct, there is no need to fill out a form. If you have moved and/or would like to add birthdays and anniversaries, please fill out a form in the narthex. If you would like to take it home and fill it out, there are addressed stamped envelopes in the narthex along with the forms for you to fill out and mail back. Contact the office with any questions.

Scan to visit our website for more information.



Birthdays this week:

Rob McDonald 7/30
Helen Tucker 7/30
Mike Woltering 7/30
Reba Daly 8/1
Paula Ellis 8/1



TREASURER'S SUMMARY as of May 2023

Pledges YTD	\$117,403.60
Total Income	\$165,170.76
Total Expenses	\$134,417.09



July 30, 2023 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

We thank you, O God, that you have planted in every heart a desire for your presence in our lives. Increase our desire and strip away everything that clouds its power within us for the sake of your love and the welfare of all your people.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES // 9 a.m. Contemporary // 11 a.m. Traditional

MONDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9 a.m.

THURSDAY

Canton Al-Anon // 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

Men's Group, IHOP // 11:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous // 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9 a.m.
Women's AA // 12 noon

WEDNESDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9 a.m.
Women's AA // 12 p.m.
Rector's Zoom Bible Study // 12 p.m.
Holy Eucharist // 6:15 p.m.

The Altar Flowers today are given by
Katie McDonald & Family to the Glory of God and in
celebration of Rob McDonalds birthday.
Helen Tucker to the Glory of God and in celebration of
her birthday.

Mailing address: PO Box 4156, Canton, Georgia 30114
Phone 770-345-6722 | **Web** www.stclements canton.org