

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 23, 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 *For The Beauty of the Earth* Hymnal 416 vs. 1,2,4,5
The Opening Sentences The Book of Common Prayer, 355

Song of Praise *The Gloria* Hymnal S278 BCP 355

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking; Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 44:6-8

Note: God calls the church to the bold action of being his true witnesses in a world that is unreceptive and even hostile. That is scary. Here God declares himself our redeemer, the rock of our faith, the unsurpassable power of life itself. What are we afraid of when it comes to showing our faith? Why?

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Psalm 86:11-17

Note: This portion of the psalm directly addresses God seeking instruction, strength, and God's personal presence. Here is the foundation of an active life of faith. It is a brave petition because God might instruct us contrary to what we think. Can you think of a time when you have been contradicted by God?

Inclina, Domine

- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.
- 12 **I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.**
- 13 For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.
- 14 **The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.**
- 15 But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- 16 **Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

The Epistle: Romans 8:12-25

Note: In one of the great passages of hope, Paul tells us that simply by calling God our Father places us in the loving hands of a loving God. In that posture we have hope and are in a position to be patient, because we are confident God is at work and we needn't prove anything. Where do you experience impatience? What is the root of our impatience?

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Sequence Hymn *Come Thou Font* Hymnal 686

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Note: This chapter is a string of parables which are designed not to give us hard and fast answers but to make us think faithfully. They are certainly not useful as agricultural advice: nobody wants weeds just as nobody wants evil lurking about. It is just "common sense". Maybe,

at times, common sense isn't either common or sensible. Can you think of instances of common sense that aren't credible anymore?

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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
Count Your Blessings
The Doxology *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 *Christ Whose Glory* Hymnal 7

Post Communion Prayer *kneeling or standing* BCP 365

Processional Hymn: *Praise My Soul* Hymnal 410
The Dismissal Response BCP 366

Thanks be to God.

WE PRAY FOR...

Our Parish Family, especially

✚ 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, JOYCE, 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, RANDALL, MARTHA, PAM, CHUCK, THOMAS, BECKY, JUDY, TIM, PINKIE, MELODY, ROBIN, MICHELLE, TROY, MICHELLE, LOGAN, KIMBERLY, DALE, REBECCA, KATHLEEN, STEVE, JAN, ANDY, JOHN, IVY, MAEGAN, ORSON, JOANNE, SHI SHI, PAPA RED, MAX, JANE, GILL, TERRY, PATTI, PATTY, KATHLEEN, JUSTIN, MR. B., CHRIS, BRANDON, SHAWN, ANN, DAVID, KRISTINE, ADRIAN, MAN AT KROGER, HEIDI, MICHAEL, LIZ, ANN, TED, CHRISTINE, BILL, PETE, ROBIN, MARY, ALEX, SANDY & TIMOTHY.

✚ 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.

Good Guys and Bad Guys

When I was a little boy, I loved watching TV westerns on Saturday mornings. There was never any doubt who were the good guys and who were the bad guys and the good guys always won. As I grew up the westerns seemed to change. Gritty western anti-heroes seemed to blur the moral line between good and bad.

There is no little comfort in my childhood moral world view. Things were kept in neat categories. The problem is that, in real life, there are few, if any, places where things or people are so straightforward.

A greater problem, Jesus seems to be teaching us this Sunday, is when we see the world as a place of good guys and bad guys. We have a strong tendency to characterize bad guys as people who simply don't look like us or think like us. We have a history of laying the blame for all our troubles on such people. We have a habit of allowing our fear to castigate the blameless.

Jesus himself fit rather neatly into that category of scapegoat when he was crucified. To the powers of the time, he was the bad guy.

The parable of wheat and tares from Matthew's gospel clearly warns against our rush to judgement against others regardless of how good or comfortable it may make us feel and despite the inevitable complications.

It requires us to exercise self-control, critical thinking, constructive conversation, and non-violence in both word and action. It requires us to grow up in the faith and love even those we consider an enemy. It requires us to treat everyone with dignity as a human being.

It doesn't solve the problem of evil, but it certainly curbs our own contribution to evil. It requires us first to address its presence in ourselves before we eagerly point the finger at others.

This is hard stuff. But it is the way of the cross and the way of the living God especially in a time of deep divisions.

Jamie

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.

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

8/14 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

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.

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.. 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: stclementsmensgroup@gmail.com.

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

Carlotta Ford, *administrator*
770-345-6722
email stclements@stclementscanton.org

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.stclementscanton.org or by the Vanco app on your smart phone.

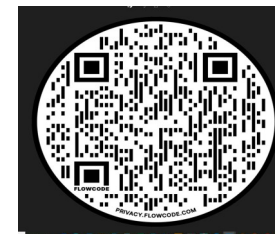
Parish Directory:

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.

Altar Flowers:

The vestry has approved an increase to \$50 per dedication.

Scan to visit our website for more information.



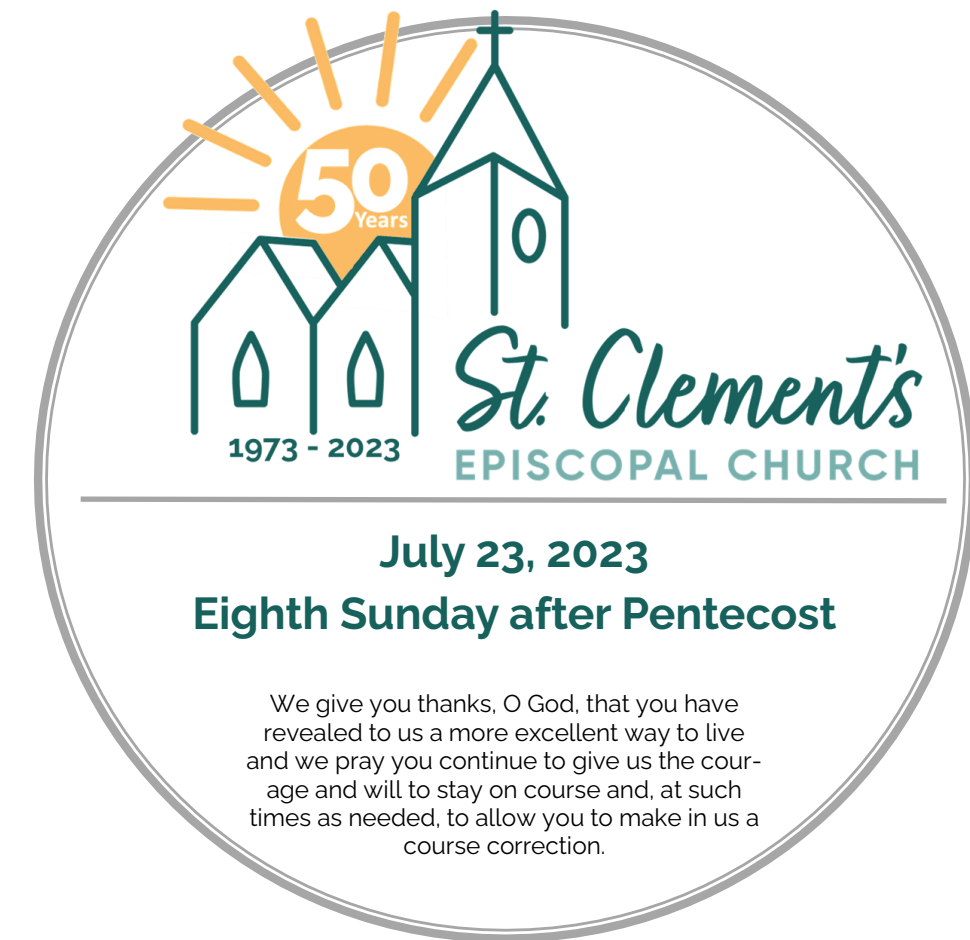
Birthdays this week:

Maddie Caudle 7/23
Alice Irvine 7/27
Nick Cerniglia 7/28
Robert Werner 7/28
Paige Yacoub 7/29

Anniversaries this week:

Tom & Karen Bommelje
7/27

TREASURER'S SUMMARY as of May 2023	
Pledges YTD	\$117,403.60
Total Income	\$165,170.76
Total Expenses	\$134,417.09



July 23, 2023 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

We give you thanks, O God, that you have revealed to us a more excellent way to live and we pray you continue to give us the courage and will to stay on course and, at such times as needed, to allow you to make in us a course correction.

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
Margie Jordan & Family to the Glory of
God & in Loving Memory of Jerry Jordan
a dear Husband, Father & Grandfather.

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