Grace & Holy Trinity Church

an Episcopal parish on Monroe Park





Commemoration of Francis of Assisi, Friar & Deacon

Holy Eucharist, Rite Two with Blessing of the Animals

October 5, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

Welcome

Welcome to Grace & Holy Trinity. We hope you will find a community here with us, whether you are a college student, Richmond newcomer, out-of-towner, or a long-time resident looking for a new church home. If you are visiting, please fill out the Connect Card from the Connect Table and place it in the offering plate during the service. A wonderful nursery staff is available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. should you wish to drop off your young children (up to age 3) during worship. Changing tables are located in the family restroom in the choir room. A greeter can direct you. Information about complimentary Sunday parking can be found on the back of this bulletin.

The Word of God

The Prelude marks the beginning of our worship and is intended as a time of reflection.

Prelude

"Nocturne No. 5" | John Field

Luke Brennan, Pianist

Processional Hymn

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" The Hymnal 1982 #405

Please stand as you are able and sing.



Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

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

All And blessed be God's 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.

Trisagion

Book of Common Prayer p. 356

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

All Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of St. Francis

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

You may be seated for the readings.

First Reading Job 39:1–18

Lector A reading from the Book of Job.

Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

Book of Common Prayer p. 779

Read responsively by whole verse.

Levavi oculos

Lector 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

- All 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.

Second Reading Acts 4:32–35, 5:1–11

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 'Ananias,' Peter asked, 'why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy

Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!' Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him. After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, 'Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price.' And she said, 'Yes, that was the price.' Then Peter said to her, 'How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.' Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" The Hymnal 1982 #376

Please stand as you are able and sing.



(continues on next page)



The Gospel Matthew 11:25–30

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

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time 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 who 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Marissa Sotos, Assistant Priest

Prayer of St. Francis
All say,

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; and

where there is sadness, joy.

O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Blessing of Each Pet (Individually)

Presider

"N., (name of animal, i.e. "Smokey", not cat/dog) may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you and (the name of the "owner") enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you."

The Blessing Prayer

Presider

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing.

All Amen.

Children's Creed

All I believe in God above

I believe in Jesus's love

I believe His spirit too,

comes to teach me what to do.

I believe, that I should be

kind and loving Lord like You. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Form VI | Book of Common Prayer p. 392

Please remain standing as you are able.

Celebrant In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Lector For all people in their daily life and work;

All For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Lector For this community, the nation, and the world;

All For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Lector For the just and proper use of your creation;

All For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Lector For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Lector For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Lector For Sean our Presiding Bishop; Mark, Gayle, and Mark, our Bishops; Brent, Marissa, and Jenny our

Priests; and Steve, our Deacon;

All For all who serve God in his Church.

Lector For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence | The People may add their own petitions.

The Parish Prayer List

Celebrant Hear us, Lord;

All For your mercy is great.

Celebrant We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence | The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Celebrant We will exalt you, O God our King;

All And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Celebrant We pray for all who have died [especially_____], that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence | The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence for reflection.

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

Book of Common Prayer p. 393

All Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant 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 Book of Common Prayer p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Book of Common Prayer p. 376

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

- Ephesians 5:2

To donate or pay your pledge, scan the QR code or visit ghtc.org/give.

Offertory Anthem

"The Gift of Love" | Hal Hopson

Parish Choir

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

Doxology

The Hymnal 1982 #380 (v. 3)

Please stand as you are able.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer A

Book of Common Prayer p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. A Proper Preface is said here.

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:

Sanctus & Benedictus

The Hymnal 1982 S 129

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.

Book of Common Prayer p. 362

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father... "Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption... All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, in the language of our heart.

The Lord's Prayer

Book of Common Prayer p. 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.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.

Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.

No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

The Breaking of the Bread

Book of Common Prayer p. 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

Communion Instructions

Communion from the Common Cup is available from the altar stations only. Communion by intinction is available by the server with the gold vessel, located at the baptismal font and for those who are seated in the pews. If you prefer to receive the sacrament while seated in the congregation, please raise your bulletin and the Eucharistic Ministers will bring the sacrament to you. For a gluten-free wafer, please bring a blue gluten-free card from the pew rack to the altar rail. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you may come forward for a blessing.

- Communicants will drink from the Chalice at the Altar. Alternatively, communicants who receive the Bread may refrain from drinking from the Chalice are encouraged to cross their arms and to say "Amen" when the Chalice is offered. The full grace of the sacrament is communicated through the Bread.
- Intinction will be offered only at the baptismal font to the left. The Priest will intinct the Bread into the Common Cup while the Chalice Bearer assists them, using a larger wafer to facilitate intinction. After receiving, exit to the left to make your way back to your pew. The same intinction method will be observed in the pews.

Communion Hymn 1



Communion Hymn 2



Post-Communion Prayer

Book of Common Prayer p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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

Celebrant The peace of God, which surpasses 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 among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth" | The Hymnal 1982 #416 (vv. 1, 5–6)

Please stand as you are able and sing.

Tune-Dix



6 For each perfect gift of thine to the world so freely given, faith and hope and love divine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

The Dismissal

Deacon Friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us so be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

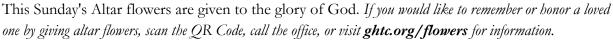
Postlude

"Etude of Scales and Chords" | Donald Waxman

Luke Brennan, Pianist

The Pace Center welcomes and invites GHTC parishioners to participate in Walk A Dog on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. Make new friends while walking dogs together. Bring your dog with you, or just show up for a nice walk with college-aged students.

Flowers at the Altar





Today's Worship Leaders

The Rev. Marissa Sotos, Preacher

The Rev. Brent A. Melton, Concelebrant

The Rev. Russ Kerr, Concelebrant

Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, Choirmaster & Pianist

Luke Brennan, Assistant Choirmaster & Pianist

Sidney Hetherington, Mary Hetherington, Adelaide Williams, Guy Eubanks & Coco Eubanks, *Acolytes*Barbara Davenport, Kay Gray, Cary Lee Henderson & Jean Jumet, *Altar Guild*Leslie Winn, Marcia Miller Haley & Jane Chaffin, *Chalice Bearers*Alexander Macaulay & Nancy Trego, *Lectors*

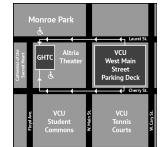
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Complimentary Sunday Parking Instructions at VCU W. Main Street Parking Deck



Validation Number: WM-1593 **Expiration date:** 06/30/2026 *QR code only valid on Sundays.*



- 1. Enter the parking deck from N. Laurel Street or N. Cherry Street.
- 2. At the parking gate arm, press the button to receive a ticket.
- 3. Park in any available space in the deck.
- 4. After visiting Grace & Holy Trinity, exit the parking deck in your vehicle and scan your parking ticket into the machine at the parking gate arm.
- 5. When the machine asks for payment, hold the QR code to the scanner.
- 6. The machine will scan the code, accept it as payment, and the parking gate arm will raise in order for you to exit.

*If you need assistance, press the "i" button at the gate and someone will assist remotely.

GHTC Staff: Name, Title	Ministry Focus	Phone Ext.
The Rev. Brent A. Melton, Priest-in-Charge	Admin. Liturgy Formation	Ext. 17
The Rev. Marissa Sotos, Assistant Priest	Outreach Communications Liturgy	Ext. 16
The Rev. Steve Pace, Deacon	Outreach Pastoral Care	Ext. 12
The Rev. Russ Kerr, Campus Minister	Pace Center Student Engagement Coordinator	
The Rev. Jenny Montgomery, Priest Associate	Worship Parish Life	
Luke Brennan, Assistant Choirmaster & Organist	Youth Instrumental Ensemble Choir	Ext. 21
Tyler Brady, Communications Associate	Communications Media Printing	Ext. 25
Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, Choirmaster & Organist	Music Choir Liturgy	Ext. 18
Lauren Frazier, Parish Administrator	Property Admin. Pastoral & Clergy Support	Ext. 23
Barbara Hobson-Simpson, Receptionist	Doors Phones Welcome	Ext. 10
Madeleine Preston, Director of Formation	Children & Youth Adult Formation	Ext. 15
Mark Roman, Sexton	Property	
Kathy Schultheis, Financial Administrator	Admin. Expenses Pledges	Ext. 14
Abigail Stinnett, Children's Choir Director	Children's Choir	

We ask that you please take this bulletin with you and recycle it when you are finished.

Grace & Holy Trinity Church

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