



CHRIST CHURCH AMONG THE OAKS

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

September 17, 2023 9:00 a.m.

A second worship site for Christ Church Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Worship: Sundays 9:00 a.m. Vicar: The Rev. Sandy Tull
NSIA Community Center, 120 Meadow Avenue in Vilano Beach
ccpvb.org info@ccpvb.org

Opening Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,



bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to



more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Welcome Guests and Newcomers

Welcome to Christ Church Among the Oaks. This is a multi-denominational congregation, made up of friends, neighbors, people who are new to our area, and those seeking something a little different and a little more meaningful in their spiritual and worship life. We feel called to serve our local community and as you will hear today, we focus on six local outreach agencies that do the hard work that Jesus taught us. A short description of each Outreach Partner is in the back of this bulletin. We welcome the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions you may have about our church and our work in the community! We are incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra and thank their leadership for the freedom to be a unique, mission-focused worship community.

Servant Board: Paula Allmen, Mike Cleary, Steve Harrison, Claire Heusinger, Deborah Pearsall, Stan Sundermeyer, and Jenny Weeks, warden.

Presider: The Rev. Sandy Tull

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Bill Schwartz

Musician: Boril Ivanov

Vocalist: Claire Heusinger

We encourage our guests to fill out a welcome card today!

We are glad you are with us and look forward to worshiping with you often.

Prelude *Medley*

Welcome and Announcements

Today we welcome the Rev. Bill Schwartz who worked in multiple capacities for the Anglican/Episcopal Church in the Middle East for 50 years. You can read a brief biography in the back of this bulletin. Fr. Bill has a daughter who teaches at Flagler and has visited our congregation several times!

Opening Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Opening Sentences

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

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

Kyrie

Lord _____ have mer - cy, _____ Christ _____ have mer - cy, _____ Lord _____ have
Ky - ri - e E - lei - son, _____ Chri - ste E - lei - son, _____ Ky - ri - e E -
Lord _____ have mer - cy, _____ Christ _____ have mer - cy, _____ Lord _____ have

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mer - cy, _____ Christ _____ have mer - cy, _____
lei - son, _____ Chri - ste E - lei - on, _____
mer - cy, _____ Christ _____ have mer - cy, _____

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Lector A reading from the Book of Genesis

50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-13

Lector The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
People **slow to anger and of great kindness.**
He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

Second Reading

Lector A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily The Rev. Dr. Bill Schwartz

Meditative Interlude

The Prayers of The People, Form IV

Leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

People

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide and strengthen all our ministry partners: St. Gerard's Campus, St. Francis House and Port in the Storm, South Woods Elementary, Learn to Read, Pie in the Sky, and Council on Aging, that with patience and understanding, they may love and care for all people.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Prayers for the Hurting World

All God of peace and justice, we pray this day for all peoples around the world who are suffering from war, famine, floods, fires, and from other devastations. We pray for all those who fear tomorrow: that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power: that they may have wisdom and discernment to aid people in distress and that they be guided by compassion in their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children who are at risk and live in fear: that you would hold and protect them. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All 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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

*To make an offering online visit ccpvb.org/give
or use the QR code at the back of the bulletin. Thank you for your support.*

Offertory

The Presentation

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 God 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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Holy, 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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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 forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**All 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant continues

The Gifts of God for the people of God. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey of life and faith, you are welcome at God's table to receive the Bread and Wine made Holy. (*Enriching our Worship, Form 1*)

Distribution of Communion

All baptized persons, including children, are invited to receive Communion.

Communion Music

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks. Amen.

Sending the Eucharistic Visitors

When present, Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned to carry the Consecrated Gifts of Holy Communion to those who are unable, due to illness or impairment, to join us for Sunday services.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood

People We who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude *Medley*

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach - us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

About Fr. Bill Schwartz

Fr. Bill Schwartz is from Omaha, Nebraska, USA. He travelled to Egypt as a university student in the fall of 1972 for a "term abroad" studying Egyptian history and culture - and was offered the job of administrating the Egypt academic program in the fall of 1973. In the summer of 1977, he moved to Cyprus to assist in establishing a youth ministry for Arab Christian young people. That led to involvement in media and IT work and other kinds of Christian ministry based in Cyprus, until joining the Bishop's staff in Nicosia in 1989 as diocesan administrator in the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. He studied for ordination in Cyprus and Wales, and was ordained as an Anglican/Episcopal priest in London in 1993.

He continued to serve the diocese as administrator in Nicosia until 1999 when he moved to Saudi Arabia to serve congregations there, and then moving to Doha, Qatar, in October 2007 to serve the congregations in Qatar. Fr Bill also served the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf as archdeacon in the Gulf, covering the eight countries of Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula from 2009 until his retirement in 2022. Since early 2019 he concurrently served the diocese as Dean of St Christopher's Cathedral in Bahrain and Archdeacon in the Gulf. He was made an honorary Officer of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 2006. He is also an honorary Canon of St Christopher's Cathedral, Bahrain, and holds an earned Doctorate in Ministry from Nashotah House Seminary in the USA.

Revd. Schwartz is married to Edith and they have four grown children and four grand-children. Bill Schwartz lived in the Middle East for almost 50 years, worked in a number of Middle Eastern countries and traveled extensively in the region. His ministry as Anglican priest, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula, has given him exposure to a broad spectrum of Islamic traditions and at the same time presented pastoral challenges to explain Islamic culture to Christians who come from all over the world to live and work in the region.

Announcements

Nourishing your soul

You are invited to participate in a personal scavenger hunt for the month of September. The Gratitude Scavenger hunt is to help you find within yourself things that bring you happiness. There are 7 items in this hunt. Enjoy the experience, may it nourish you.

Honoring our Pets

We will be celebrating St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 1 by honoring our pets during the service. Please bring a photo or memento of your pet(s) including those that are with us and those that have left this life. We will display the items you bring and offer St. Francis medallions to remember and protect our companions.

Upcoming events to support our Outreach Partners

Learn to Read Fiesta Latina
Thursday, October 5 - 6:00 PM
Tringali Barn Heritage Farms
contact Elaine Reagan
ereaganpvb@gmail.com

St Francis House Masquerade Ball
Friday, October 13 - 6:00 PM
Tringali Barn Heritage Farms
contact Jack Tull
tulljs@msn.com

Supporting Our Outreach Partners

As we celebrate the friends, family, and travel of summer, don't forget our outreach partners are still experiencing very high demand for services, increasing costs, and reduced donations. Your financial offering each Sunday is extremely important and we encourage you to look for other opportunities to support our partners and maybe have some fun at the fund-raising events they are all working so hard to make successful. THANK YOU!!

The Order of the Daughters of the King®

Our local chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King® will pray for and/or rejoice with you confidentially. We encourage you to fill out a prayer/thanksgiving card and place it in the blessing bowl on the welcome counter next to the kitchen. The cards will be gathered each week and the Daughters of the King will begin praying for you.

Offerings Online

Forgot to bring cash or write a check??? We now have a QR code in the bulletin for safe, quick, and easy online giving. You will be automatically directed to the Christ Church giving page where you can enter your information one time and it will be saved for future giving.

Pass The Plate

Make a gift or catch up on your pledge online. THANK YOU for your faithful gifts to the church, today and always.



Our Outreach Liaisons

Learn to Read

Improving literacy for over 200 individuals each year at no cost to the student. Improved reading skills lead to better paying jobs, higher levels of education, healthier lifestyles, and a better overall community.

Elaine Reagan ereaganpvb@gmail.com

Mary Jane Dillon dillonmj43@gmail.com.

St. Gerard's Campus

A non-profit maternity home and Christian high school for pregnant teenagers, promoting empowerment through education and strong Christian values.

Paula Allmen pallmen@icloud.com

Stan Sundermeyer srsundermeyer@msn.com

St. Francis Housing Crisis Center / Port in the Storm

Engaging those experiencing homelessness to achieve stability, self-sufficiency, and a viable plan for their future by providing a safe, stable environment, access to essential services, and supportive connections.

Al Wallander alwallander@outlook.com

Annette Wallander annettewallander2@gmail.com

Jack Tull tulljs@msn.com

Council on Aging

Provides the opportunity for every person in St. Johns County to enjoy wellness, longevity and quality of life choices within a strong, healthy community.

Sharon Carlson xtraice0922@gmail.com

Pie in the Sky Community Alliance of St. John County

Pie in the Sky is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization providing hope by serving with dignity and respect to alleviate hunger and social isolation through the home delivery of healthy fresh produce to low-income senior citizens.

Loretta McMaster lwmcmaster@sbcglobal.net

Steve Harrison jags1995@live.com

South Woods Elementary

Creating a secure community that will instill in all students a desire for academic excellence, fostering the development of caring, productive citizens.

Margo Cleary margcleary@aol.com