

St. Francis Celebration



Christ Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist & Blessing of the Animals

5:30 pm

Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi

Welcome to this Eucharist with the Blessing of the Animals.

This is always a joyful occasion as we celebrate God's gifts to us in creation, and especially ask God's blessing on the animals with which we share our lives.

This service always falls on the Wednesday closest to October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis is often remembered through his songs and poems, many of which express the praise of God in creation.

It is not just animals for which Francis thanks God, but all aspects of creation. Brother Sun, Sister Moon, wind, stars, water. The cosmic elements all gather as God's creatures in his Cantic of the Sun.

In these days of climate change, pollution, waste, and inequitable sharing of our global resources, we would do well to widen our focus.

Let's hold on to our love and care for our animals and include love and preservation of our planet. If we love God in all creation, we will, perhaps, learn to love each other, truly as sister and brother.

*Welcome to Christ Church Ponte Vedra! We are delighted to have you worship with us.
In order to prepare for this service, we ask that you silence your phone. Thank you!*

THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome Words

Opening Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beams,
Pale silver moon hat gently gleams,

Refrain O praise Him, O praise Him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One: *Refrain*

Let all things their creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise God, the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One: *Refrain*

Opening Sentences

“O how happy and blessed are those who love the Lord and do as the Lord himself said in the gospel: You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart and your whole soul, and your neighbor as yourself. Therefore, let us love God and adore him with pure heart and mind. This is his particular desire when he says: True worshippers adore the Father in spirit and truth”.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Song

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *Refrain*

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 12:13-21

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

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’”

Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Gospeler

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Homily

The Reverend Amy Slater

Prayer for Animals

Let us pray.

O God, You created all living things on the face of the earth and gave us dominion over them; grant that we may be faithful to this trust in the way we treat animals, both wild and tame. Teach us to admire their beauty and to delight in their strength and to wonder at their intelligence. Grant that our use of them may be merciful and wise. So may we lend our voice to the praise of your goodness which endures forever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader

Let us pray to God the Almighty, the creator, and maker of all things.

God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the heavens.'

We praise you for creating a universe which proclaims your glory.

God of life:

People

Hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let the waters be gathered together, and let dry land appear.'

We thank you for the diversity and resources of land and sea, for the resources they offer.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day and the night.'

Save us from wasting the resources on which all life depends.

God of life:

Hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let the waters bring forth living creatures, let birds fly across the sky, Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind. Grant us grace to treat all animals with respect and care; To protect, preserve, and honor their lives and habitat.

God of life:

Hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let us create human beings in our own image.'

We pray for the human family.

God of life:

Hear our prayer.

Then, when it was good, when the making and saying and doing were done, You rested.

Celebrant Lord, teach us to rest, to wonder at the beauty of the world, and to see your gracious hand in all your works. **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Animals

Please remain in your place and the clergy will come to you for the pet blessing.

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Announcements

*To make an offering online visit
ccpvb.org/give or scan this code.*

Thank you for your support.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Song

Creation Sings the Father's Song

Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty

Verse 1

Creation sings the Father's song
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day
Till evening falls in crimson rays
His fingerprints in flakes of snow
His breath upon this spinning globe
He charts the eagle's flight
Commands the newborn baby's cry

Chorus

Hallelujah
Let all creation stand and sing
Hallelujah
Fill the earth with songs of worship
Tell the wonders of creation's King

Verse 2

Creation gazed upon His face
The ageless One in time's embrace
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man
A second Adam walked the earth
Whose blameless life would break the curse
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally

Verse 3

Creation longs for His return
When Christ shall reign upon the earth
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age
When He renews the land and sky
All heaven will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme
The glory of our God and King

Please stand as you are able.

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

The Celebrant continues

O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death. With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

Celebrant and People

**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.

The Celebrant continues

We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability, and for his gentleness. Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh, and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."

So, too, after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them, saying: "This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

The Celebrant continues

Come now, Spirit of God, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Communion

Please join us at God's table.

All people, including children, are invited to receive Communion. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

If you would prefer not to take Communion but would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

Music During Communion

Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood, as to understand, to be loved,
As to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure; hither, by thy help, I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Please stand as you are able.

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray

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

May God our Creator,

Who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air, bestow on you his care

And increase the harvest of your compassion;

And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Be upon you and remain with you, today and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go forth and tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bear the fruits of righteousness. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

Wednesday Night Dinner – Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

Dining Room from 5:45- 7:00 p.m.
\$10/adult, \$7/child under 8, \$34 family
max

Episcopal Youth Community

Youth House
Low Tide – 4:30-6 & High Tide – 7-8:30

Women in the Word (200)

Facilitated by Mary Ann Reynolds, Kay
Verble & Jane Wallace, 7:00 pm -
Conference Room.
Contact: mahrey51@aol.com,
ksvpvb@gmail.com,
wilsonsidekick@gmail.com

Wednesday Night Book Club (200)

7:00 pm in Room F 204
Contact: Mark Barrett at
mbarrett@vrlinkcorp.com

Thursday, October 2

Blessings in a Backpack

8:30 - Dining Hall

The Lighthouse Youth and Parents

Every First and Third Thursday
7:00 - 8:30 pm, Youth House
This nonreligious gathering is open to
LGBTQIA+ middle and high school
students in Jacksonville and the
Beaches area, including people of all
faiths and no faith. For more
information, to RSVP for the first time,
or to inquire about volunteering in this
ministry, please contact Catherine

Montgomery at
thelighthouseflorida@gmail.com

Friday, October 3

Men's Bible Study (100) & Breakfast at
7:00 am in the Dining Room.

Soulful MOMS (100) from 9-10:45 in the
Center for Spirituality
Contact: tschwarz1015@gmail.com

First Fridays in Nature (100)

Join Greg and Jennifer Andrew for
intentional time in nature on the first
Friday of each month. Contact Greg
for specific location and details at
gda021@yahoo.com.

DID YOU KNOW? An Evening Celebrating Contributions of People of Color

Sponsored by TRUE: Transforming
Racial Understanding & Engagement
Contemporary Worship
Space, Friday, October 3,
6:30-8:30 pm. Learn more and
register here.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 22, 6-7:30 pm
Dinner begins at 5:30 pm with kid-
friendly options and indoor and
outdoor seating. Then head to the
surface lot for a night of costumes,
candy and decorated trunks! Want to
make it extra special? Sign up
to host a candy car! Scan this
code to volunteer, or contact
Amy Schmitt at
ascmitt@ccpvb.org with any
questions.



**Grace and Gardens Pilgrimage to
England- (September 2026) –
Informational Meeting Sunday
October 5 from 10:15-11:00 in Rooms
111-113**

Come and learn about this once in a lifetime pilgrimage to England offering special access to amazing sites. Our guides will be the Very Rev. Ian Markham, Dean and President of Virginia and General Theological Seminaries and the Rev. Barney Hawkins who has over 40 years of experience leading pilgrimages to sacred places.

Joyful Friends 75+ – October 7

Dining Room from 11:30-1:00

Join your friends and fellow parishioners for lunch, fellowship, and a discussion on how to create a container garden. Sign up online or at the front office; contact Lois Ann or Heather at joyfulfriends@ccpvb.org with questions.

Caregiver Connect

Wednesday, October 8th from 4-5:30pm

Whether you're actively caregiving or caregiving from a distance, you are not alone. Join us support and spiritual rest with fellow journeyers. Quarterly gatherings will be offered. Contact: Candice Tiner at caregivers@ccpvb.org

Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Weed

Saturday October 11th 12PM - Sunday October 12th 11AM – Register by October 4!

6th-12th graders are invited to the Fall Retreat at Camp Weed 2025!

Registration is \$125 to cover the cost of lodging overnight, food, drinks, and our activities! Scan here for more information and registration here.



Camino Pilgrimage – Lunch and Learn

Sunday, October 12 at 12:15 in the Dining Hall

Join Deacon Leila to learn about our next adventure walking the Camino de Santiago. The trip will take place from April 19 – May 1, 2026. Email Leila with questions and next steps at Leila@ccpvb.org

Guided Forest Walk with Dr. Trey Wilson

October 18 at 10:00 am -12:00 noon

Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens
Join us for a morning of reflection and renewal led by forest therapy guide, Dr Trey Wilson. This event is suitable for all levels of walkers, meet at the Jax Arboretum at 10:00a at 1445 Milcoe Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32225. This special program is sponsored by the Christ Church Center for Spirituality. Register online or by emailing trey@treygardens.com.

Christ Church ICARE House Meeting

October 28 at 6:00 pm - Room 106

Enjoy a light supper and discussion led by ICARE Associate Director Amanda Nelson. Amanda will share news of ICARE's current justice ministry work and we will share our ideas for

creating a better community for everyone.

RSVP to Mary Watson at
mvw172@gmail.com

BEGINNING THIS FALL

Clergy Forum (100) – Resumes next week!

A multi-generational gathering for “holy conversation” about the readings of the day and our spiritual lives. Resumes October 5.

Faith Foundations (100) – Starts next week!

This class continues where our class on worship ends. Join Dcn. Leila, Mtr. Laura and the clergy team as we continue to explore the foundations of our Christian faith and practice. Our discussions will be engaging both for those new to Christ Church and for long-time parishioners who want to re-engage their faith and learn more about what it means to be Episcopalian. Room 106, F+A Bldg. This class runs from October 5th- -Nov 23rd and serves as preparation for both membership and adult confirmation.

Scott Burch Bible Study (200): Excavating the Bible: How Archaeology & Historical Texts Can Help Us Interpret the Bible

This year we will explore what ancient historical records and archaeological finds can tell us about ancient Israel, the people who lived there, and their understanding of God. Begins Oct 5th.

Contact: scottburch@yahoo.com

QR CORNER



Make a joyful noise! Learn more about joining a choir here.

Need prayer or assistance, or want to help those who do? Learn more about **Caring Connections** here.



There are many ways to serve here at Christ Church, and we need you! Check out current **service opportunities** here.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Caring Connections Director

Liz McCarthy
904-285-6127, ext. 235
lmccarthy@ccpvb.org

Children

Amy Schmitt
904-285-6127, ext. 227
aschmitt@ccpvb.org

Development + Parish Executive

Mike Shepherd
o. 904-285-6127, ext. 228
p. 904-788-4295
mshepherd@ccpvb.org

Formation for All Ages

The Rev. Laura Magevney
904-285-6127, ext. 248
lmagevney@ccpvb.org

Hospitality + Nursery

Jennifer DeRycker
904-285-6127, ext. 247
jderycker@ccpvb.org

Marketing and Communications

Lindsey Bloodworth
904-285-6127, ext. 260
lbloodworth@ccpvb.org

Music

Dr. Rachel Root
904-285-6127, ext. 233
rroot@ccpvb.org

Newcomers + Spirituality

The Rev. Deacon Leila Quinlan
904-285-6127, ext. 223
leila@ccpvb.org

Operations + Parish Administrator

Stephanie Murray
904-285-6127, ext. 256
smurray@ccpvb.org

Outreach + Pastoral Care

The Rev. Amy Slater
904-285-6127, ext. 236
aslater@ccpvb.org

Staff and Clergy Chaplain

The Rev. Wendy Billingslea
wwbillingslea@gmail.com

Preschool

Christy Maurer
904-285-6371, ext. 243
cmaurer@preschoolcec.org

Recovery

The Rev. Deacon Priscilla Wodehouse
pdwodehouse@icloud.com

Worship

The Rev. Andreis Diaz
904-285-6127, ext. 226
adiaz@ccpvb.org

Youth

Parker Wheeler CECyouth@ccpvb.org

Music used by permission-
OneLicense.net A-701976 and CCLI
218107



CHRIST CHURCH

EPISCOPAL

400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 ◦ 904.285.6127 ◦ CCPVB.ORG

  @CCPVB