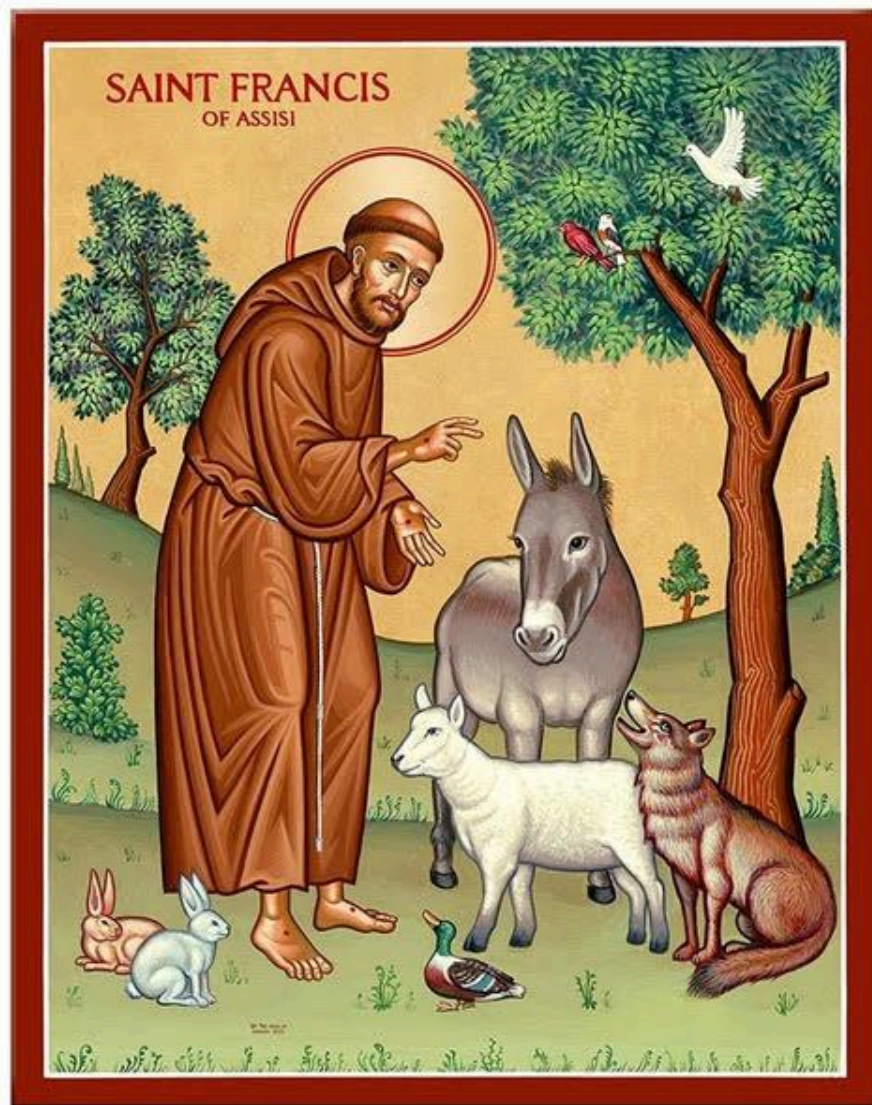


ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Easthampton, Massachusetts

Be careful: If you come here, you will grow.



Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two
Blessing of Animals

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Proper 22]

4 Oct 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

What the Episcopal Church teaches about St. Francis of Assisi

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, however, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants.

The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But, by 1221, Francis had lost control of it, since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed. In his later years he was ordained as a deacon, but he resisted all efforts to persuade him to become a priest.

Not long before his death, during a retreat on Mount La Verna, Francis received, on September 14, Holy Cross Day, the marks of the Lord's wounds, the stigmata, in his own hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory IX, a former patron of the Franciscans, canonized Francis in 1228 and began the erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis' remains are buried.

Of all the saints, Francis is perhaps the most popular and admired but probably the least imitated. Few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. Francis left few writings; but, of these, his spirit of joyous faith comes through most truly in the "Canticle of the Sun," which he composed at St. Clare's convent of St. Damian's in Assisi. The version in The Hymnal begins (The Hymnal 1982, #406; #407):

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,
To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured, —
And blessing without measure.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee
And serve in great humility.

NOTES ON THE LITURGY: “The Daily Office” is a phrase that indicates a basic quality of a Christian’s life: namely, that prayer is a “daily” activity; and that keeping these prayers is a fundamental “duty” (which is what the word “office” means) of the baptized. Taken from the ancient monastic practice of praying seven times a day, the Prayer Book tradition has combined the three main elements of this monastic worship [which are: the saying of the 1) psalms; 2) reading the scriptures; 3) offering the prayers] to punctuate each threshold experience of the day with a particular “God-awareness” in terms of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline.

Stemming from our baptismal promise “to keep the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers,” [BCP, page 304], the Daily Offices are most appropriately led by the laity. In this occasion when our priest is away, the St. Philip’s community has the opportunity not only to exercise this prayer ministry but also for some to be introduced to the Daily Office tradition and experience.

Prelude

“Three Joyous Organ Verses”

Domenico Zipoli

Community Notices

The Entrance Rite

Opening Hymn #400

“All creatures of our God and King”

The Hymnal, 1982



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The People remain STANDING.

Opening Sentences

Officiant: Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the People

In silence, let us acknowledge those things that separate us from God and from one another. Then publicly and aloud (sitting or standing), let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for a time. Then, the Officiant leads the People.

GOD OF ALL MERCY,
 we confess that we have sinned against you,
 opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord
Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY

ALL STAND

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Jubilate #S295

The Invitatory

The Hymnal, 1982

1. Be joy - ful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his pres - ence with a song. 2. Know this:
The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pas - ture. 3. Enter his gates

with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and
call up - on his Name. 4. For the Lord is good; his mercy is ever -
last - ing; and his faithfulness en - dures from age to age.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong, Tone 8; adapt. The Standing Commission on Church Music, 1979, alt.
© 1979, The Church Pension Fund.

The People SIT for the Psalm.

The Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

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

THE LESSONS

The New Testament

Genesis 1:20–25

Deborah Murray Hrubesh, Lector

God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And

there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept for a time. Then in response to the lesson, STANDING, ALL SING the Canticle.

Canticle #885

“Let all creation bless the Lord”

Whitehead

Wonder, Love & Praise

1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing.
2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and moun-tains,
3. O men and wo - men ev - ery-where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry;
Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir up the an - gels' sing - ing.
sing to the God who gave you birth; be joy - ful, springs and foun-tains.
let all who know God's stead - fast care tell our sal - va - tion's sto - ry.

Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat: ex -
 Lithe wa - ter life, bright air-borne birds, wild rov - ing beast, tame flocks and herds: ex -
 No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum-ble souls and meek of heart: ex -

alt the God who made you.
 alt the God who made you.
 alt the God who made you.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Music: *Whitehead*, William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947).

In the Morning Prayer service, the Gospel is announced and the People are SEATED to listen.

The Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 6:25–33

Henry Reeves, Lector

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell

you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept for a time.

Teaching Moment about St. Francis

Becky Taylor

At the Officiant's invitation, all STAND and say the Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant: Let us stand and confess what we believe in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Officiant: I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,

People: creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS *[sitting or standing]*

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

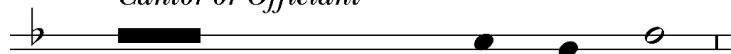
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

Then all join in the singing of the Suffrages

The Suffrages A #S52

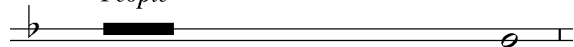
The Hymnal, 1982

Cantor or Officiant

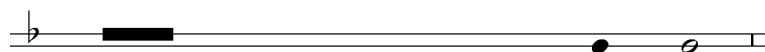


V. Show us your mer - cy, O Lord;

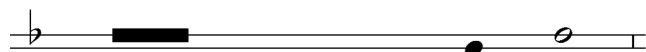
People



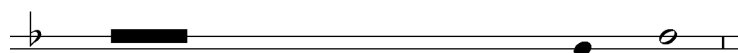
R. And grant us your salva - tion.



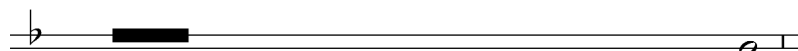
V. Clothe your ministers with right - eous - ness;



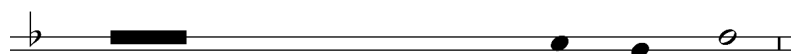
R. Let your people sing with joy.



V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;



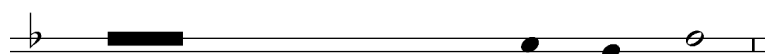
R. For only in you can we live in safe - ty.



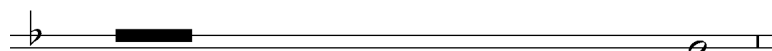
V. Lord, keep this nation un - der your care;



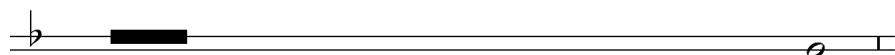
R. And guide us in the way of jus - tice and truth.



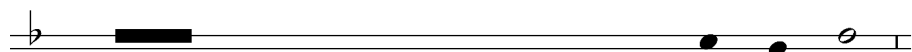
V. Let your way be known up - on earth;



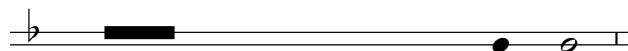
R. Your saving health among all na - tions.



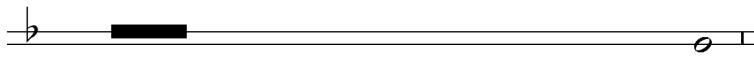
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgot - ten;



R. Nor the hope of the poor be ta - ken a - way.



V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;



R. And sustain us with your Holy Spi - rit.

Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collects

Henry Reeves, Intercessor

The Collect for the Day

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.**

A Prayer for the Right Use of God's Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At the Intercessor's bidding, the People may offer their prayers silently or aloud.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we 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 General Thanksgiving

Book of Common Prayer, pg 101

Officiant: ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL MERCIES,

People: we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only
with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Blessing of Animals

For our animal companions who have died

Gracious God, our hearts are filled with the memories of those beloved animal companions who have died, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. [] They enriched our lives, and we delighted in their company. We will always remember the loyalty and mischief of these animal friends, and we will always miss them. May the deaths of these creatures remind us that death comes to us all, and is the natural end to earthly life. May these pets who have died carry on with you forever, until we join them in eternal life. **Amen.**

For our animal companions with us at this time, offered together

Blessed are you, Lord God of the universe, for all the creatures you have made. You keep them in your care and not one is lost from your sight. They glorify you, and each in its own way speaks to us of your beauty, your challenge and your love. May we respect them and cherish them, for they are your gift to us. Bless these animals here present, and those waiting for us at home. Bless every creature far and wide, that through them we may better know your will for all Creation. We ask this all in your holy Name. **Amen.**

The liturgy concludes with this.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Officiant concludes the liturgy with the following.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

STANDING, please join in singing the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn #406

St. Francis of Assisi (1182 - 1226)



CHOIR 1 Most High, om - ni - po - tent, good Lord, to thee be
 ALL 2 My Lord be praised by bro - ther sun who through the
 WOMEN 3 My Lord be praised by sis - ter moon and all the
 MEN 4 By sis - ter wa - ter be thou blessed, most hum - ble,
 WOMEN 5 By mo - ther earth my Lord be praised; gov - erned by
 MEN 6 My Lord be praised by those who prove in free for -
 WOMEN 7 For death our sis - ter, prais - ed be, from whom no
 ALL 8 Most High, om - ni - po - tent, good Lord, to thee be



CHOIR 1 cease - less praise out - poured, and bless - ing with - out
 ALL 2 skies his course doth run, and shines in bril - liant
 W 3 stars, that with her soon will point the glit - tering
 M 4 use - ful, pre - cious, chaste; be praised by bro - ther
 W 5 thee she hath up - raised what for our life is
 M 6 giv - ing - ness their love, nor shrink from trib - u -
 W 7 one a - live can flee. Woe to the un - pre -
 ALL 8 cease - less praise out - poured, and bless - ing with - out



CHOR 1 mea - sure. From thee a - lone all crea - tures came;
 ALL 2 splen - dor: with bright - ness he doth fill the day,
 W 3 hea - vens. Let wind and air and cloud and calm
 M 4 fire; _____ joc - und is he, ro - bust and bright,
 W 5 need - ful. Sus - tained by thee, through ev - ery hour,
 M 6 la - tion. Hap - py, who peace - a - bly en - dure;
 W 7 par - ed! But blest be they who do thy will
 ALL 8 mea - sure. Let crea - tures all give thanks to thee,



CHOIR 1 no one is wor - thy thee to name.
 ALL 2 and sig - ni - fies thy bound - less sway.
 W 3 and weath - ers all, re - peat the psalm.
 M 4 and strong to light - en all the night.
 W 5 she bring - eth forth fruit, herb, and flower.
 M 6 with thee, Lord, their re - ward is sure.
 W 7 and fol - low thy com - mand - ments still.
 ALL 8 and serve in great hu - mil - i - ty.

Postlude

“Processional”

Wilbur Held

Be Careful: IF YOU COME HERE YOU WILL GROW

Prayer List

Mary R., Cecilia D.,
 Noah, Graciela & Baby Pru and Cristosal in El Salvador,
 Josh, Andy, Jon, Maureen L., Nancy D.

Please keep in your prayers the groups that use our facility during the week,
 including the Easthampton Family Center (Tues-Fri) and AA Meetings (Sat-Wed)

Birthdays

Roxy LB ~ Oct 7

Announcements

October 4, 2026

TODAY'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Steve Bailey, Celebrant
 Becky Taylor, Speaker
 Deborah Murray Hrubesh, Henry Reeves,
 Lectors
 Henry Reeves, Intercessor
 Karen Banta, Organist & Choir Director
 St. Philip's Choir Singers
 David Haines, Usher
 Julie Flahive, Robert Shaw, Counters

COFFEE HOUR this week is hosted by
 Fran Kidder and Jean Blakeman. Thank
 you for your hard work.

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NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY! We
 want our young people in worship so they
 can learn about St. Francis and participate
 fully in the blessing of animals.

We give **THANKS** to Kevin Coughlin for
 the loan of his fine Yamaha keyboard this
 morning.

BROWN BAG LUNCH This drop-in lunch group meets on Tuesdays at noon. This is a “come as you can” fellowship ministry of our parish. If you have some free time, pack a lunch and come to church! The gathered group offers Noontday Prayers and then enjoys a simple meal and lively conversation. Questions? Becky Taylor: beekyt21@verizon.net.

THANKS to everyone who helped “set the banquet table” with food items for one of our ministries, the **PIONEER VALLEY POWER PACKS** program. We now have our shelves better stocked and more funds in the bank. October will see the first “power packs” meals distributed for children in Mt View School and Smith Vocational High School.

TAKE & EAT ~ St. Philip’s and the Westhampton Congregational Church work together to provide meals for homebound people on the 4th weekend of every month. It takes over 30 volunteers each month to provide this much needed service to the community. Interested? Volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/takeandeat> or contact Emma Coles at ecoles614@gmail.com.

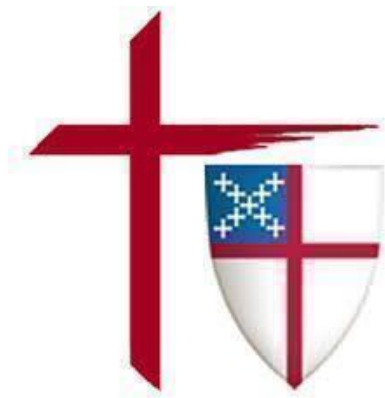
Our **EVENTS CALENDAR** is online at <https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/upcoming-events>

What Is THE BIBLE Anyway? Join us on **Thursdays at 4:00** to experience a certain kind of answer to this question. An answer that is joyful and engaging. To get the **Zoom** link email Linda Moore at bythegraceofgod@outlook.com

JOIN THE ST. PHILIP’S CONNECT GROUP, our virtual community. We share blessings, ask for prayers and help or favors. Ask a vestry member for more information. **Subscribe to the N.O.W.** (News **O**f the **W**eek). Find our weekly newsletter, at <https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/weekly-newsletter>. Subscribe and you’ll receive the sermon every Monday and the N.O.W. every Thursday.

BE A PILGRIM! Join the Pilgrims group on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 till 5:00 on Zoom, now entering our sixth year. We are beginning a study of the Epistle to the Hebrews, and promise a scintillating exploration of this New Testament book. Please contact Linda McCullough Moore at BythegraceofGod@outlook.com for more information and to receive the Zoom link.

LECTIONARY STUDY GROUP may reconvene if there is enough interest in doing so. Please contact Becky Taylor if you would like to be part of this weekly adult formation opportunity, or want more information (beekyt21@verizon.net).



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

128 Main Street
Easthampton, MA 01027

www.stphilipseasthampton.org [www.Facebook/st philips easthampton](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipseasthampton)
stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com

A parish of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell
X Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
www.diocesewma.org

THE VESTRY OF ST. PHILIP'S

Becky Taylor, Senior Warden; Deborah Murray Hrubesh, Junior Warden;
Joy Hermansen; Janet Couch; Walter Schiff; Fran Kidder;
Emma Coles; Elizabeth McAnulty
Joe Bianca, Treasurer; Robert Shaw, Clerk

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

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Available for appointments anytime