



**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 6, 2026**

**Prelude:**

*Reflections on "The Valley of Peace,"* Albin C. Whitworth

**Processional Hymn:**

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

**Hymn 423**

**The Word of God**

**BCP 355**

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

**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray together our 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.**

**Celebrant and People:**

**Hymn S280**

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **The Lessons**

### **Old Testament**

#### **Ezekiel 33:7-11**

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

**Lector:** The word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **The Epistle**

#### **Romans 13:8-14**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us

live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn:**

*Where charity and love prevail*

**Hymn 581**

*Stand as you are able*

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 18:15-20**

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Homily**

**Rev. Vikki Clayton**

*Joining with Christians throughout the centuries and throughout the world today, let us affirm the faith of the Church, by saying the Nicene Creed.*

*All stand as you are able*

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Stand or kneel as you are able*

**The Prayers of the People (Form VI)**

**BCP 392**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those  
who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the  
needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

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

*Silence.*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

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

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*Who put their trust in you.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

**We pray for those on the Anglican and Diocesan  
Cycles of Prayer and our Parish Family and Friends**

Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Mariann our Bishop, Vikki, our Rector; and for Lauren our music and choir director, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

**The Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

Labor Day (*Sep 7*): Pray for all who labor, those who are unemployed, those who seek jobs, and all who must work for less than a living wage.

Diocesan Youth Ministry

Diocesan Young Adult Ministry

All whose passion and work is formation

**For our parish family we pray for:**

Judy O'Neil, Meredith Smith, Lydia Brittle, Scott Peterson, Stevie Grimes, Janet McMurtray.

**For parishioners' family members and friends  
we pray in the quiet of our hearts:**

*(A moment of silence.)*

Jerry Cross (V. Cross)

Susan Oliver (J. Shea)

Daniel Oliver (J. Shea)

Thomas Cooper and Mrs. Boyd (D. Burton)  
Roseann Royle (N. Row)  
Darcy Alt (S. Henderson)  
Jeff Weinberger (S. Henderson)  
Amanda Graham (A. Fitts)  
Christine Pearson (V. Cross & J. Rutherford)  
Chris Fountas (J. Rutherford)  
Edmund Ground (M. Smith)  
Allie Ground (M. Smith)  
Garry Ground (M. Smith)  
Felicia Taylor Popowski (B. Taylor)  
Mercy Frederick Ozuruonye (C. Frederick)  
Anna Kuhlmann (N. Row)  
Nicole Pappano (J. Kaufmann)  
David Umsheid (J. McMurtray)  
Barb and Scott McDonald (V. Cross)  
Joyce Oehmler (V. Cross)  
Yannick Goedde-Bosch (A. Fitts)  
Nicole Bowie (N. Row)  
Jim Bond (S. Bond)  
Shari Champagne (V. Cross)  
Donny Cooper (J. McMurtray)  
Nancy Loy (J. Rutherford)  
Amy Morris (D. Howard)  
Sophia Hu (D. Starkweather & V. Cross)  
Deanna Wheeler (D. Howard)  
Barry Burke (J. McMurtray)  
Carolyn McInnes (J. McMurtray)  
Hugh Browne (V. Cross)  
Earl McDonald (J. & J. Kaufmann)

### **Birthday for the week of September 6 - 12**

Evelinda Torres                      September 8

### **Celebrant:**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover

of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin**

**BCP 360**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

***Celebrant and People:***

**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**

**BCP 360**

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

**People:** **And also with you.**

### **The Offertory**

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

**Offertory Hymn:**

*Lord make us servants of your peace*

**Hymn 593**

*Stand as you are able*

**Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above the Heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A) BCP 361**

**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 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. 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:

**Celebrant and People:**

**Hymn S129**

**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 people stand or kneel.*

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:

**Celebrant and People**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Celebrant:**

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.*

**Celebrant:** And now as our Savior 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 Fraction** The Celebrant breaks the bread.  
(*A moment of silence*)

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #154*

*This setting is not used in Lent.*



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

*The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover, #154 from The Hymnal 1982, Service Music* — Music: From *New Plainsong*; Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

**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 Music**

*Beside Still Waters*, Nathan Cort

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

## **Celebrant and People**

**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**

## **Closing Hymn**

*God is Love, let heaven adore him*

**Hymn 379**

## **The Dismissal**

**Lay Eucharist Minister:** Go in peace to love and serve the  
Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

**People:** Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

## **Postlude**

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, arr. Thomas Chesterson

## **Serving Today**

**Lay Reader** Richard Rutherford

**Lay Eucharist Minister** Janet Shea

**Choir Director, Music Director, and Organist** Lauren Fisher

**Usher** Rob Palmer

**Altar Guild** Lauren Murtiff, Sharon Henderson

**Broadcast Technician** Victoria Cross

**Flower Guild** Lois Leigh

**Celebrant & Preacher** The Rev. Victoria Clayton

## **St. Bartholomew's Vestry**

**Senior Warden** Lois Leigh

**Junior Warden** Jeff Bergsten

**Vestry:**

Ann Fitts, John Kaufmann, David Landrith, Rob Palmer,

Judith Schneider, Donna Starkweather

## **Coffee Hour**

Coffee hour today is a potluck. Next week is Birthday Cake Sunday, so everyone gets to take a week off from bringing something in. We have an exciting new way to sign up to host using the following QR code! It's easy to host, all you have to do is bring something we can nosh on, savory and/or sweet, and we're happy. The coffee is premade (and plugged in before the service) and plates and cups are already put out. The sign up book is still on the counter, see Victoria or Lauren if you have any questions.



## **Soundbath Event at St. Bartholomew's**

Artist Chris Wikman and friends, of the group Concordance, will be hosting an afternoon Soundbath event in St.

Bartholomew's church on **Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 1:30 PM**. A suggested donation is \$10-\$25, with part of the proceeds going to St. Bartholomew's. Registration is required - click on the QR code below. Please arrive a few minutes early to get settled.

A soundbath is a meditative experience in which participants are "bathed" in sound waves produced by instruments such as singing bowls, bells, chimes, gongs, ocean drums, rain sticks, etc. These instruments generate specific frequencies and vibrations that can help guide one from an alert waking state into deep states of relaxation and rest. Participants either lie down or sit comfortably, often closing their eyes. The event typically lasts 30-60 minutes. Previous attendees described our event as "hearing angels sing", and "we'll attend every event you hold!"

Register through this QR code:



## **Labyrinth Gallery Artists' Reception**

An Artists' reception is this Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Two new artists will be displaying their works in the Labyrinth Gallery during September and October. Sculptures by Karen Swenholt and Poured Works by Laurie Lea. This is the first time the gallery will display sculptures and promises to be an interesting exhibit.

### **Bible Study**

Bible study is on hiatus until September 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be studying “The Early Christian Letters” by N.T. Wright when we reconvene. The book is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble (but you don’t need a book to join us).

### **Town Picnic**

The annual Laytonsville Town Picnic is next Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. There will be door prizes, pony rides, cake walks, food, live music, and a program beginning at 6:00 pm, running about an hour. Food trucks will be serving from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

### **Prayer Beads**

Prayer beads are back from summer break! Workshops begin in September and we invite everyone to join the fellowship while making prayer beads and enjoying pizza. No experience is necessary. We look forward to seeing everyone! The Fall schedule is:

- September 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday) at 6:30 pm and 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday) at noon
- October 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) at 6:30 pm and 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday) at noon
- November 17<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) at 6:30 pm and 18<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) at noon
- December – holiday recess

All workshops meet in the undercroft.

### **St. Paul UMC BBQ Dinner and Bake Sale**

St. Paul’s is having its annual BBQ and Bake Sale on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:30 pm. There will be pulled pork and pulled chicken, along with all the sides. All you can eat if you dine-in, carry out is also available. Adults \$20, kids 8-12 \$10, 7 and under FREE. Cash and credit cards accepted. Grill Master Chef Rich Franklin of VIP BBQ. Contact St. Paul’s for more info: [stpaul208@aol.com](mailto:stpaul208@aol.com) or 301-963-2185.

## **Forward Day by Day**

The current edition of Forward Day by Day, in regular and large print, is available in the rack when you come into the church. Please take one. You can also go to [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org), click on the Prayer tab at the top, then scroll down to Today's Forward Day by Day to view the online version.

We provide Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life.

## **Food Giving Basket**

There is a food giving basket for Olney Help in the entry way of the church with a "wish list" of items. Please bring the items in a bag. Thank you for your generosity.

## **On-Line Giving**

There is now the option to contribute to the ministries of St. Bartholomew's by using this QR code:



## **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church**

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Rector - Rev. Victoria Clayton

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