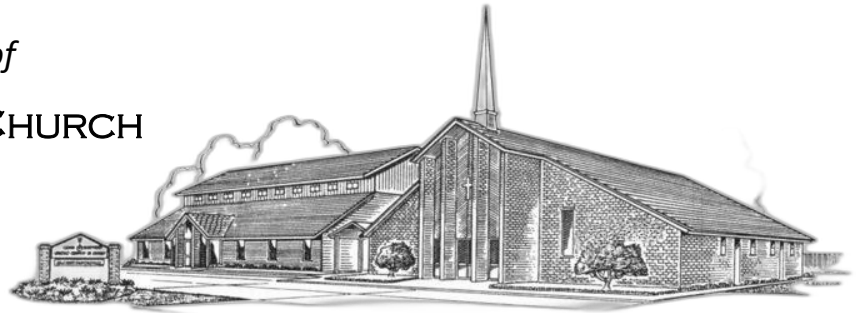


Shepherd's Voice

OCTOBER 2023

The monthly parish newsletter of

GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH



WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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
who with the Father and the Son is wor-
shipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2023

Sunday, October 1 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Trinitytide Proper 21

Sunday, October 8 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Trinitytide Proper 22

Sunday, October 15 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Trinitytide Proper 23

Sunday, October 22 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Trinitytide Proper 24

Sunday, October 29 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM

Sunday morning Holy Eucharist—Trinitytide Proper 25

PLEASE NOTE: Our YouTube channel is located at
www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet.

Each Sunday morning, we livestream our 10:00 AM Holy Eu-
charist on our channel.

GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH



Saturday, October 7 at 10:30 AM

**Open to people and pets
of all faiths & species!**

5122 W. Esplanade Ave—Metairie, LA 70006—www.GSCmet.com

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

ST. FRANCIS AND THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Christian celebration of the Feast Day honoring Saint Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of the Animals holds a special place in the hearts of believers worldwide. This annual event, inspired by the life and teachings of St. Francis, commemorates his deep love and compassion for all creatures, big and small. But just who is Francis and why do we bless our pets on his Feast Day?

Saint Francis of Assisi, born in the 12th century, is a revered figure in Christianity. He is known for his profound humility, love for nature, and unwavering faith. St. Francis lived a life of simplicity and dedicated himself to serving God and His creation. He saw the divine presence in all living beings and believed in the interconnectedness of humanity, animals, and the environment.

St. Francis's compassion for animals is legendary. He firmly believed that all creatures were part of God's creation and deserved care and respect. In fact, it is documented that Francis would often preach to birds, acknowledging their place in the world as fellow-creatures of God's creation. His deep reverence for nature and animals led him to embrace a lifestyle of nonviolence and promote the concept of stewardship, emphasizing responsible care for the Earth and its inhabitants.

The Blessing of the Animals is one of the ways local church parishes celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis. The actual Feast Day is October 4 on the Church calendar, but at Good Shepherd, we transfer the date of celebration to the first Saturday in October in order to allow for a larger participation by the faithful and their beloved pets.

The celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of Animals is a testament to the enduring legacy of a man who lived his life in devotion to God and His creation. This annual ceremony serves as a reminder of the importance of compassion, stewardship, and the interconnectedness of all living beings.

Around the globe pets, domesticated animals, and even livestock are brought to churches, courtyards, and public spaces to receive a special blessing. The ceremony typically involves prayers, hymns, and a ritual of sprinkling holy water on the animals.



Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

As we prepare to celebrate this event on Saturday, October 7 at 10:30 AM in the church parking lot, let us be reminded of St. Francis's teachings on compassion and respect for all of God's creation. Let us be reminded of and acknowledge our responsibility to care for and nurture the animals entrusted to us.

May this Church Feast and the Service of Blessing the Animals remind us of how intimately interconnected we are to God by our interconnectedness to all His godly creatures.

May we ever appreciate the sacredness of all life and allow this celebration to invite us into a time of sacred reflection. May we reflect upon the goodness of God who has offered us union with Himself through His Son. May we reflect upon our own place within creation and our bond with others in the Church and in the world, as well as with our pets and all creatures of our God and King.

As the annual remembrance of St. Francis brings us the opportunity to offer the service of the Blessing of the Animals, it is my prayer that it also allows for the people of God to express gratitude to the Person of God for the beautiful gift of God we find in our pets.

As we come together as Christians to have our animal companions blessed, may we honor God in honoring the life of His servant, Francis, even as we renew our commitment to care for and protect the precious creatures that He has preordained us to enjoy.

Until next month, let your light shine!



Fr. Randall M. Graf, Rector

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

**Saturday, October 7
10:30 AM**



A COLLECT FOR JOY IN GOD'S CREATION

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through who all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the ACNA (2019) Book of Common Prayer, page 652.

NOTES FROM RINDA

Most everybody knows how much I love hymns—singing them, studying their history, learning about the composers and authors. I can remember texts and melodies from my childhood, but I also love learning new hymns. Yes, there are still writers and composers adding to the rich legacy of hymnody. One of the newer hymns that we use at Good Shepherd is “Borning Cry” which we sing during the sacrament of baptism.



My graduate hymnology professor, Dr. Harry Eskew, was a profound influence on me. He literally wrote the book we used in class. He taught me to study the background of hymns; situations in which the authors and composers found themselves that affected the expression of their experiences. The composing of “It Is Well” comes to mind. The composer wrote this after losing his daughters in an accident on the Atlantic Ocean. He reminds us that God is in control, even when Satan seems to be at the forefront of life.

When I choose hymns for our Sunday Eucharist or any other worship experience, I spend a great amount of time matching the hymns to the scriptures for worship events. I use several sources that match the liturgical calendar to the hymns that fit those readings, including a website and listings from our hymnal. I know that there are some hymns that not everyone knows, since we come from so many church backgrounds. I hope that when we sing a hymn that is unfamiliar to you that you will follow the text for a stanza or two and then attempt to join in. As a congregation we can lift our voices in joyful song.

In closing, I'd like to call our attention to **Colossians 3:16** which says:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Rinda Coleman

Music Director

THE PSALMS AS PRAYERS OF UNITY

By Ashton Hutchinson

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi. This Latin phrase essentially translates as “the law that is prayed is the law that is believed.” Others in our Anglican tradition have phrased it more simply as, “what you pray is what you believe.” In our church, the workings of this Latin phrase are expressed in our Book of Common Prayer. Many many words can be, and have been, spent on how the Book of Common Prayer provides unity for Christians around the world. It is truly a great thing. My focus here however, is to more specifically look at the ways in which the Psalms can be uniting prayers for us who are in Christ. To that, I want us to look at both the way our tradition uses the Psalms and their purposes identified by St. Basil the Great.

First, the Psalms for us form an integral part of our worship. After we begin our prayers and sing hymns to the Lord, we move to the Liturgy of the Word. We begin with an Old Testament reading, and then move towards a Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel reading. That is what we do every Sunday. Throughout our worship service, we will enjoy a selection of God-honoring hymns that sing praises to our savior, but we still remember to keep the Psalms. We will join an untold number of other Christians every day that we gather and sing or pray these God-breathed Psalms to our Lord. Second, the Psalms form a key part of the morning and evening prayers, as well as any other liturgical hours that you may keep. In our ACNA Daily Office, you will generally find one to three Psalms appointed for each time of prayer if you follow the sixty day track. These two practices of our heritage unite us in a special way. We are sharing the same prayers, the same cries to God, that countless others will lift up throughout their week. I would encourage you to take up even just one of the Daily Office times, for they give you the opportunity to further pray the perfect will of God in all things. To me, that is the great uniting gift of the Psalms. In our weakness, we may pray for that which is not best for us, but our Father gives us a gift that we can lift our voices with other believers and pray his holy will as revealed in scripture.

Another great reason to pray the Psalms can be seen in some commentary provided to the Church by St. Basil. In his homily on the first Psalm, St. Basil identifies many great graces given in the Psalms. I want us to only look at two. First, St. Basil tells us that the Psalms have been given to us so that by saying them we can “become trained in soul...” What he means here is that phrase I brought to mind at the beginning of this writing: *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*. By praying and singing the Psalms, we speak forth truths that edify our souls in ways beyond our understanding. Even when we may not fully grasp their reality, our soul is joining with the Holy Spirit to bring forth graces and goodness to our walk as a Christian. If we pray the Psalms in earnest, we will acknowledge our sins, bring glory to God, and make known the calling we have. This in turn impacts our belief, as we internalize these great words and they become a comforting reminder of that faith we cherish. Second, St. Basil tells us that the Psalms can unite those who have gone astray in the body. In that same homily he states “A psalm forms friendships, unites those separated, conciliates those at enmity. Who, indeed, can still consider as an enemy him with whom he has uttered the same prayer to God?” When we gather as a church, we do so as a body made up of many parts. Our own interactions and lives can lead us to unduly break the love and communion that Christ has called us to. His words ring true, for when we join together to praise God we should let go of whatever transient troubles we let divide us. With these great truths in mind, I hope that all will find a place in their life for the Psalms. Let us pray them with earnestness, for what we pray we ultimately believe, and these beliefs unite us both to the Church universal and to our Lord Jesus.

Ashton Hutchinson and his wife Caitlin attend Good Shepherd Anglican Church. To read more of Ashton's Christian writings, visit his blog at <https://fourstreamstheology.wordpress.com>.

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www.GSCMet.com



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subscribe to our e-newsletter!*

A COLLECT FOR RAIN

O God, our heavenly Father, by your Son Jesus Christ you have promised to those who seek your kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: Send us, we pray, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to your honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the ACNA (2019) Book of Common Prayer, page 653.

Blessing of the Animals



*Saturday, October 7
10:30 AM*

Black & Gold SUNDAY



*Sunday, October 15
Potluck at 11:30 AM*

TRUNK OR TREAT



*Saturday, October 27
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM*



PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began, Good Shepherd Church has been streaming our 10:00 AM Sunday morning Service of Holy Eucharist each week. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the lector reads a prayer entitled ***An Act of Spiritual Communion*** for those who are watching at home and are unable to partake in the reception of Holy Communion sacramentally. That beautiful prayer comes from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 677, ACNA 2019) and can be prayed by a Christian any time they are longing for the grace of Holy Communion but are unable to receive the tangible elements of the sacrament. These are the words to that prayer:

***Dear Jesus, I believe that you
are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to possess you within my soul.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people
gathered around every altar of your Church,
and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.***



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

www.GSCMet.com

Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Red Letter Holy Days

12:15 PM or 6:30 PM

