

# Holy Eucharist

Proper 18A, Pentecost 14

September 6, 2020

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 379

*God is love; let heaven adore him*

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in  
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-  
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through  
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

*Presider* Blessed be + the One, holy, and living God.  
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Presider begins the Collect for Purity*

## 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.**

## Song of Praise

*Presider and People say together*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to God's 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.**

### **Collect of the Day**

*Presider*           The Lord be with you.  
*People*               **And also with you.**  
*Presider*           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.**

*All sit.*

### **First Reading**

Exodus 12:1-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of

Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 149**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; \***  
**let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.**

<sup>3</sup>Let them praise his Name in the dance; \*  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

<sup>4</sup>**For the LORD takes pleasure in his people \*  
and adorns the poor with victory.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; \*  
let them be joyful on their beds.

<sup>6</sup>**Let the praises of God be in their throat \*  
and a two-edged sword in their hand;**

<sup>7</sup>To wreak vengeance on the nations \*  
and punishment on the peoples;

<sup>8</sup>**To bind their kings in chains \*  
and their nobles with links of iron;**

<sup>9</sup>To inflict on them the judgment decreed; \*  
this is glory for all his faithful people.

**Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading**

Romans 13:8-14

### **A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>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.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>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; <sup>12</sup>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; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as they are able.*

**Sequence Hymn**

Hymnal 577

*Here in Christ we gather*

*Refrain*

God is love, and where true love is God him - self is there.

1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.  
 2 When we Chris - tians gath - er, mem - bers of one Bo - dy,  
 3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,

Christ, our love, is with us, glad - ness be his greet - ing.  
 let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.  
 when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.

Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.  
 Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.  
 Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,

Repeat Refrain  
 Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.  
 Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.  
 be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>15</sup>“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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”



*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*All stand as they are able.*

## **Nicene Creed**

*Presider* Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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 worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

*All remain standing as they are able.*

## Prayers of the People

*Deacon* As the Church, the Body of Christ in this time and place, let us offer our prayers, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

*Intercessor* That we may love the Lord with our whole heart, and soul, and mind, and our neighbor as our selves, claiming the great commandment as our pathway and destination; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence is kept.*

That our love may be revealed through our actions, as we commit ourselves to visiting those who are in prison, or confined to their homes, or living in nursing facilities, that in seeing their face we will see the face of Jesus; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence is kept.*

That peace may flourish wherever there is strife or enmity between peoples, bringing opportunities for improved nutrition, health, and education, revealing God’s mantle of light; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence is kept.*

For the power of the Holy Spirit in guiding us in our discernment of our vocations, our manner of expressing God’s indwelling love, so that we may be passionate about our work and ministry; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence is kept.*

For the grace to turn away from anything that places a barrier between God’s love and our actions, so that in turning back to Jesus we may receive mercy for the past and strength for the future; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence is kept.*

For all laborers, that they may receive a fair wage, a safe working environment, the companionship of fellow workers, and the respect of those who exercise authority over them; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Silence is kept.*

For blessings upon those who have died, [remembering especially \_\_\_\_\_], that their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God may rest in peace; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**



*Silence is kept.*

In thanksgiving for the blessings we have received, we continue our prayers, praying today for our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Julio, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. We pray for all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our sisters and brothers worshipping at Nativity Church, Bloomfield Township; and Cathedral of the Epiphany, Santo Domingo, Church of the Redeemer, Barahona, and all the parishes that have suffered in the hurricanes in the Dominican Republic. We give you thanks for the blessings we have received from your hands, [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. We pray for the sick, and for those in any need or trouble: \_\_\_\_\_.

*Silence is kept.*

Most loving God, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Presider* In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies, with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And if we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our souls. Let nothing ever separate us from you. **Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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.**

*The Priest stands and says*

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.**

## **Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries**

*The Deacon says*

In September, we celebrate the birthdays of Kailyn, Alan, Bob, and any others you wish to remember in prayer.

*Prayer for a Birthday*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Kailyn, Alan, and Bob, as they begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Today we also celebrate the anniversaries of those you wish to remember in prayer.

*Prayer for an Anniversary*

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon *these* couple/s. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Presider*           The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*             **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# Holy Communion

## *How the Holy Communion is prepared*

The Officiant, Deacon, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

The Officiant alone will bring the bread and wine from the credence table to the Altar at the time of the offertory. All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Officiant alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the officiant during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the officiant alone**. They are consumed entirely by the officiant, or appropriately disposed of after the service.

The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. During consecration, the Officiant will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 19, 2020 Diocese of Michigan directive).

## *How the Holy Communion will be distributed*

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available in each pew

The bread will be distributed at the communion rail, while maintaining six feet of distance between households. The people will be directed forward to receive.

Masks must continue to be worn during the distribution of communion. Communicants should only lift their mask and consume the bread when they are back in their pews, or at least six feet **away from** the distribution point.

The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

*When the Instructions have been reviewed, the Priest then says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*A minister brings forward the alms basin.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

*to be sung*

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*The people remain standing.*

## **Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We glorify and enjoy you now and forever, gracious God, because you created the universe as your work of art, and set us in the midst of it.

When the canvas of your kindness was torn by our sin, you crafted a work of even more depth and beauty from the damage we had done.

When your Son's body was scarred and pierced, you raised him to glorious life.

In your chosen people you drew out a song of thankfulness and praise,  
and in your church you give us voices to shout and dance and sculpt and inscribe  
the wonders of your love.

And so we rejoice to join with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,  
proclaiming the hymn of your unending praise.

**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 continue to stand, or kneel as they are able.*

*The Presider continues*

We lift our hearts to you, Lord God,  
because you draw your whole creation into the celebration of your glory.

Send down your Holy Spirit + upon us now, that every part of every one of us  
might become an instrument of your peace.

Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine  
and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;  
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples,  
saying,

"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. Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God of justice, make us a prophetic people, whose every work and every act  
is a proclamation of the new order found in you, and worthy of your kingdom.

Holy God, make us a priestly people, whose lives are so transparent with your truth  
that we become a place of encounter between you and your beloved children.

Reigning God, make us a kingly people, whose hearts are filled with worship and  
wonder, and who seek to bring every one of your gifts to fruition  
in the power of your Spirit.

We pray in union with Christ in the power of your Holy Spirit, God of glory, forever and  
ever. **AMEN.**

*The Presider then continues*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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 forever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The Presider says*

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

**Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

*The Presider says*

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

*The Deacon then says*

The table of Christ's body and blood is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus.

It is the table of sharing with the poor and lowly of the world,  
with whom Jesus identified.

*The Presider continues*

So come to this table you who have much faith  
or you who would like more; you who have been here often  
and you who have not been here in a long time.

Come. It is Christ who invites you to meet him here.

**Amen. As the elements we now eat are transformed,  
may we be changed into the likeness of Christ; bone of his bone,  
flesh of his flesh, loving and caring for the world.**

## Communion Hymn

LEVAS 144

*Where he leads me*

1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, — I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, —  
2. I'll go with Him through the gar - den, — I'll go with Him through the gar - den, —  
4. He will give me grace and glo - ry, — He will give me grace and glo - ry, —

1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing,—"Take thy cross and fol - low, fol-low me."  
 2. I'll go with Him through the gar - den,— I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.  
 4. He will give me grace and glo - ry,— And go with me, with me all the way.

Where He leads me I will fol-low,—Where He leads me I will fol-low,—

Where He leads me I will fol-low,— I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Almighty and everliving God,  
 we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
 of the most precious Body and Blood  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
 and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
 that we are living members of the Body of Christ,  
 and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
 And now, send us out  
 to do the work you have given us to do,  
 to love and serve you**

**as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road.

And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## **Concluding Hymn**

Tune: *St Denio* Hymnal 423

*O God, our creator*

1 O God, our Cre- a- tor, you work eve- ry day:  
2 Christ Je- sus, how rough were your hard-work- ing hands!  
3 Lord, some live a- mong us who need con- stant care,  
4 We're bap- tized! Your Spi- rit gives new work to do,

a pot- ter, you form us, your peo- ple, like clay.  
You la- bored a- mong us; our God un- der- stands!  
whose work is to make us more hum- bly a- ware.  
that we, through our serv- ing, may glo- ri- fy you.



A shepherd, you guide us and seek out the lost.  
 Bless workers who struggle, their families to feed;  
 They teach us the best of your lessons, by far:  
 Each person's vocation, each calling, has worth

A parent, you love us, not counting the cost.  
 bless those who face hardship, oppression, or greed.  
 it's not what we do, Lord; you love who we are.  
 as you send us out to bring Christ's love on earth.

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* My brothers and my sisters, let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**REGARDING OFFERINGS TO ST. BARNABAS CHURCH**

**To make your regular offering to St Barnabas**, please mail your check to the church: 20500 W Old US-12, Chelsea MI 48118-1309. Mail is being collected daily.

Hurricane Laura slammed into the Gulf Coast last week, which was the same week that marked the 15-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. **Episcopal Relief & Development** is in constant communication with the impacted dioceses working to reach vulnerable populations devastated by the storm. [Donate today](https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief) to support these efforts.

<https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief>

**CONTINUING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS TO FAITH IN ACTION**

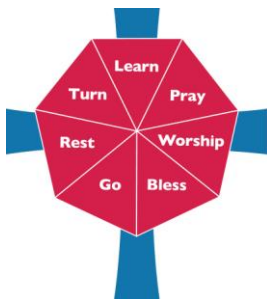
Faith in Action is providing leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas.

**Needed right now:** cleaning products, and personal products are always needed, as these items cannot be purchased with food stamps. **You may bring your donations to FIA**, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **Food will also be collected at the church on September 20, the next BC meeting date. The building will be open for you to leave your donations on the table.**

Donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at [www.faithinaction1.org](http://www.faithinaction1.org), by Facebook, or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action*, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118. **If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305**

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**Enrichment for Our Spiritual Journey**



**The Way of Love** material can be found here:  
<https://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love>

**Join St Barnabas'** twice-weekly Zoom check-in! Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Contact Bill or Marion if you need the link.

**Watch** Washington National Cathedral's live-streamed Eucharist and Daily Office services, <https://cathedral.org/calendar/>

**Join in** a short, weekly, meditation with Presiding Bishop Curry here:  
<https://episcopalchurch.org/habits-of-grace>

**Watch** Bishop Bonnie Perry's sermons,  
<https://www.edomi.org/whatsheaid/sermons/>

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**Upcoming Commemorations**

- Sep. 6 Hannah More, Religious Writer and Philanthropist, 1833
- 7 Elie Naud, Huguenot Witness to the Faith, 1722; and, Kassiani, Poet & Hymnographer, 865
- 8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and Nikolai Grundtvig, Bishop and Hymnwriter, 1872; and, Søren Kierkegaard, Teacher and Philosopher, 1855
- 9 Constance, Nun, and Her Companions, Martyrs, in Memphis, 1878
- 10 Alexander Crummell, 1898

- 11 Harry Thacker Burleigh, Composer, 1949
- 12 John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York, 1830

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**Invitation to the Table** adapted from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2001)  
**Concluding prayer** at the Intercessions adapted from *The Armed Forces Prayer Book*, 1951.  
**Concluding Hymn** Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved, used by permission; Tune *St Denio* at Hymnal #423, in the Public Domain.

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## September 6, 2020 – Pentecost 14A: Intentional Small Groups

The Episcopal Church continues to offer new resources for congregations interested in following the Way of Love as a way of life by starting small group ministries. New resources include the *Building an Intentional Small Group Ministry* information packet, an infographic, video compilations, and social media graphics. These resources are available at [iam.ec/smallgroups](http://iam.ec/smallgroups).

Inspired by the foundation laid by Arlin J. Rothauge’s work and booklet, *Making Small Groups Effective*, the *Building Intentional Small Groups* information packet can help congregations answer the questions of *why, what, when, and how* of Small Group Ministry. Written and curated by formation and evangelism leaders across the church, the packet is an instructional tool to help churches as they begin or re-start an intentional faith-based small group ministry. This is not a curriculum, but instead a tool to help adapt existing curricula and other formation resources for a small group context.

In addition, the *Building Intentional Small Groups* videos are designed to be a source of encouragement and inspiration for those looking to start or re-start an intentional faith-based small group ministry. Small group leaders and participants from across the Anglican Communion, lay and clergy, gathered to record these videos. The videos can be shared digitally through social media, or congregations may choose to include them in their Sunday morning worship if they are launching a small group ministry, or during a virtual coffee hour as a conversation starter.

"There is no better way to grow and practice the Jesus Way than in our homes, in our day-to-day lives, with a circle of followers who love and mentor one another as apprentices in the Jesus Way," says the

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

## How to Host a Small Group

When we meet regularly with a small group of people to share life, prayer, stories, and wisdom, we all grow in love. Call it a small group, discipleship group, circle, cell, or life group. The point is to gather and share faith and life, in a way that complements congregational life.

**Gather round**

Begin with prayer and the breaking of bread. When we share a meal - prepare it together, order pizza, or settle with dinner at your laptop - we follow in the footsteps of the early church.

**Share about God**

Invite each person to briefly share whether and how God is showing up in their lives right now.

**Reflect on scripture and wisdom**

Read a passage from the Daily Office Lectionary together and discuss how it intersects with life today. In addition, you might also incorporate a book study or other curriculum.

**Pray and worship**

Close your time in prayer and thanksgiving. Whether in word, song, silence or some combination, take the time to offer thanks, hopes, and concerns for yourselves and others.

For more resources visit [episcopalchurch.com/smallgroups](http://episcopalchurch.com/smallgroups) or email: [wayoflove@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:wayoflove@episcopalchurch.org)

Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, canon to the Presiding Bishop for evangelism, stewardship, and creation care, “Particularly in this present moment, when pandemic has stripped away the trappings that usually surround church, small discipleship groups and neighborhood circles may be the most practical way for us to walk the path to love, freedom, and abundant life that Jesus laid out.”

For more information and resources visit [iam.ec/smallgroups](http://iam.ec/smallgroups) or email [wayoflove@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:wayoflove@episcopalchurch.org).

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**Our Mission:**

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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