

Traditional Worship. Progressive Thinking.



News From the Pews

This Sunday

September 14, 2025
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Cross Day
Ingathering Sunday

11 am Holy Eucharist
The Rev. Sara Palmer, Rector

All are welcome
to receive Holy Communion
at the Lord's table.

*Please join us in the undercroft
after the service
for fellowship and refreshments.*

*We thank the Lector Ministry Team
and Will Stewart*

*The altar flowers are given
to the glory of God in honor of Ingathering Sunday
by Laura and Christopher Calton.*



**MESSAGE AND LEAFLETS, CHANGE TO Rite II
September 14. Holy Cross Day.**

We are a diverse and inclusive community which is flexible around liturgy. This past summer, we used the supplemental liturgy from the Enriching our Worship book; we appreciated the different perspective offered. For Ingathering Sunday, September 14th, we will use Rite II to worship God, the more modern service from the Book of Common

Prayer (BCP). The service begins on p. 355 of the BCP. Of the four possible Eucharistic Prayers in the BCP, we will use Prayer B on page 367. You will have the opportunity to get used to this service since we will use it until the end of the church year, Christ the King Sunday, on November 23rd. We look forward to being together each Sunday to grow deeper roots into God's presence and continue to strengthen our fellowship. I am deeply thankful for you all at All Souls Church!

A Collect for the Sunday following 9/11

God the compassionate one, whose loving care extends to all the world, we remember this day your children of many nations and many faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Console those who continue to suffer and grieve and give them comfort and hope as they look to the future. Out of what we have endured, give us the grace to examine our relationships with those who perceive us as the enemy, and show our leaders the way to use our power to serve the good of all for the healing of the nations. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord who, in reconciling love, was lifted up from the earth that he might draw all things to himself. Amen.



Sunday's Readings

**The First Lesson,
Isaiah 45:21-25,**

Will Stewart

Psalm 98, ASC Choir

The Epistle,
Philippians 2:5-11,
Rick Taylor

Gospel,
John 12:31-36a,
Mother Sara Palmer

Prayers of the People,
Bill McKinley

Leaflet for Sunday 9.14.25

There is the DC Half Marathon this Sunday.

[Click here to check for Road Closures.](#)

An Update from the Tending the Soil Team

Stay Calm, stay connected, stay with conviction, and stay the course.

This advice came from a Tending Our Soil (ToS) learning lab on adaptive leadership that was held in the spring. As it turns out, this advice and the adaptive leadership framework also feel relevant for helping us to navigate the uncertain and tumultuous times we live in. The three big takeaways about adaptive leadership and leaders from our learning lab were: Adaptive leadership requires unlearning and a willingness to let go of past successes (i.e. What worked five years ago, won't necessarily work now.)

Adaptive leaders expect and work through resistance, rather than avoiding it--and remain in relationship with all. (i.e. View situations of resistance as a circle, rather than as opposing sides of an issue.) Adaptive leadership is a continuous process of learning, experimenting, and growing with others (i.e. We give ourselves the grace to fail and the freedom to try.)

In September, the All Souls ToS team (Mother Sara, John Longstreth, Tara Mancini, Al Muller, Heidi Rasciner, and Donald Snyder) will embark on the third and final year of the program with the rest of the cohort. We will continue to build on the learning and work of the past two years that Heidi Rasciner detailed in the 2025 Annual Report (pg 26).

If you have questions or would like to know more about ToS, please email Heidi Rasciner at hrasciner@cgsh.com.

Upcoming Events

September



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY | Tomorrow, September 13, 9 AM – NOON!

It's never too late to sign up! Come be a part of a special morning cleaning up All Souls - inside and out. Jeff Wells, Junior Warden (junior.warden@allsoulsdc.org) is heading up this effort. Pizza is provided! Please email Jeff if you would like to participate.

INGATHERING SUNDAY | This Sunday, September 14

Our annual "back to church" Sunday happens this Sunday which is also Holy Cross Sunday. The **Choir** will be back and so will **the 10 am Faith Forums**. We will be honoring Leybi Romero during the coffee hour that the Lectors Ministry team will be hosting. We hope to see everyone back from their summer adventures and eager to begin the new season in unity and love.



FAITH FORUM SERIES FOR AUTUMN 2025

The Fall Forum Series begins **THIS SUNDAY, Sept. 14th** at 10 am in the conference room and runs through December 21st. All are encouraged to experience their faith through conversation with fellow parishioners. *See complete list of topics on website at allsoulsdc.org/formation.*

Sept. 14 | Spiritual Journey Interview with Helen Schmedtje and Samuel Littauer who will share their faith journeys. Presenter is Mother Sara.

Sept. 21 | African Bible Study: Lectio Divina with presenter Mother Sara.

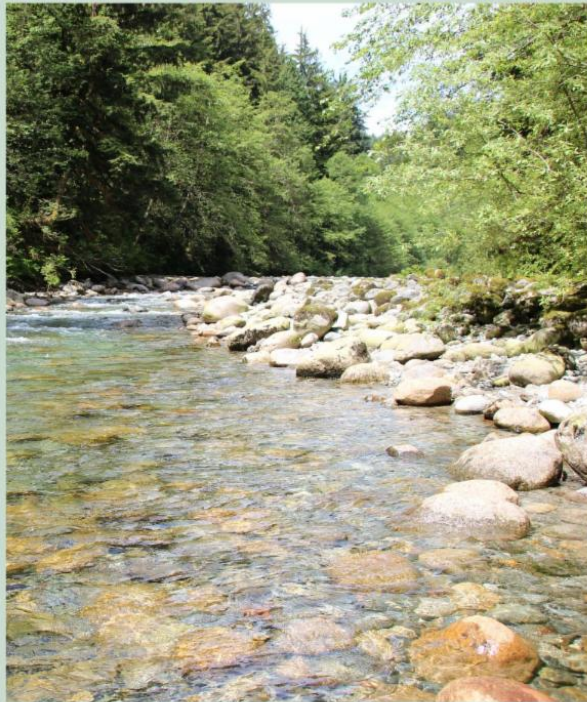
Sept. 28 | Stories Jesus Still Tells, by John Claypool with presenter Peter Laugesen. Why Parables? Why Stories?

Rock Creek Clean Up Morning

Sat., Sept. 20
9:30 am-Noon

- Meet in Church lot to travel together
- Bring gloves and wear sunscreen/hat
- Bring shovels, weeders, trash bags
- Bring snacks and water bottle if needed
- You may stay longer than Noon if wish to
- Sebastian Wellford is the ASC Lead
He can be reached at swell11@vt.edu.

Sign Up here OR online!



ROCK CREEK CLEAN UP | SAT MORNING., SEPT. 20, 9:30 am – Noon

Sebastian Wellford is leading this environmentally friendly volunteer event.

Sign up on the parish website, [fill out the waiver form](#)
and/or contact Sebastian at swell11@vt.edu.

Time: 10 am - Noon (Meet at the church at 9:30 am in the parking lot to travel together.)

Location: Picnic Grove #24 - Carter Barron, across from the Tennis Center

Transportation: Ample parking available on-site. Some members will be carpooling from the All Soul's parking lot at 9:30 am.

Materials: Gloves, bags, grabbers, first aid, etc will be provided! Feel free to bring a reusable water bottle, snacks, sunscreen, hats, or other tools.

Registration: Please register at [this link](#) through the Rock Creek Conservancy to complete all necessary waivers or contact Sebastian Wellford (seabasswellford@gmail.com)

Learn more: If you're interested in the Rock Creek Conservancy and how they keep our local National Park clean, or if you'd like to donate, please visit [their website](#).
Attendees need to visit the above link to complete waivers however, paper waivers will be available.

SATURDAY. SEPT. 20, 10 am—1 pm

“St. Benedict’s Rule for our Restless Age” will be presented by The Rev. Patricia Lyons, Sr. Advisor for Evangelism Initiatives, VTS. Find out more at www.benedictfriends.com.

FREE CREATIVE CARE CLIMATE TRAINING

SATURDAY., SEPT. 27, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm on Zoom

Co-Hosted by AME, ABCUSA, DOC, ELCA, NBCUSA, PCUSA, TEC, UCC, UMC + Blessed Tomorrow. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

We are called by our faith to care for all that is sacred which includes the earth and all creatures great and small. This Christian Climate Training with Blessed Tomorrow equips you with the knowledge, hands-on experience, and resources to speak and take action on climate change in your home, neighborhood, congregation, community, with policymakers, and beyond. The training, which is part of the Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador Program is free, practical, inspiring, backed by science, and rooted in faith.



COFFEE WITH MOTHER SARA | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

If you are new to All Souls in the last six months, please do grab a coffee and snack downstairs and **come up in the Conference room at 12:15 pm** to meet Mother Sara. This is a great way to make new friends and also have your questions answered about the Episcopal Church and about All Souls.



October

20'S AND 30'S GET TOGETHER, SAVE THE DATE! | FRI., OCT. 3, 6:30 pm

Mark your calendars for “BYOH” (Bring Your Own Hot sauce) mixer as it will involve food! It will be happening from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm in the undercroft. Contact [Joe Neal](#) for more information. [SIGN UP online](#) or in person at the Welcome table.

EDOW - BECOMING BETTER NEIGHBORS WORKSHOP | OCT. 4, 10a-3p

Becoming Better Neighbors is a one-day workshop from the School for Christian Faith and Leadership that explores how to build deep, lasting relationships with those around you – relationships of mutual support and shared vision for the future. Relationships where your church is known for what you do and what you believe, even by people whose lives and beliefs differ from yours.
Who should come?

- Churches at any stage of growth or vitality
- Congregations seeking deeper ties with their community
- Leaders wanting to reach younger generations through authentic engagement
- Parishes ready to be known as strong, reliable partners in the neighborhood

What to expect:

Presentations by [Stacy Brungardt](#) of [Focused Community Strategies](#), sharing proven approaches to sustained community connection with opportunities to learn from one another, swap ideas, and start planning next steps. *Lunch provided (dietary needs accommodated)*

*This Workshop takes place Saturday, October 4 from 10 am to 3 pm
at Epiphany Episcopal Church
3111 Ritchie Rd., District Heights, MD 20704.
[Register here.](#)*



ST. FRANCIS BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE | SUN. OCT. 5 at 3 pm
Join Mother Sara and parishioners in the front garden of the church for a blessing of animals. All leashed or caged animals are welcome. Open to the community.

Resources

STAY IN TUNE WITH OUR LOCAL DIOCESE and the Church at Large via Email
Sign up for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW) bulletin that comes out weekly via email to stay in touch with the larger diocese and note interesting offerings around town at edow.org/connect/newsletter-sign-up.

Also, the National Episcopal Church offers an informative website (episcopalchurch.org) and to read about national and world news in the episcopal church, subscribe to the **Episcopal News Service** bulletin at episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION

PRAY THE DAILY OFFICE

Subscribe for free to the *Forward Day by Day* phone app. It offers prayers on the go and

daily spiritual practices for busy people, in English and Spanish. Daily Readings, Pray Any Time, Forward Day by Day and Daily Devotions are all included. Find out more [here](#). This app will compliment the Forward Day by Day devotion books ASC offers in the Narthex.

Directory Update



CHURCH DIRECTORY

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DIRECTORY LISTING

There are copies of the first draft of the directory at the Welcome Table and Narthex. We ask you to please check your information and then initial next to it that it is correct or make necessary edits. We are going for 100% photos this year! Please submit a photo to andrea@allsoulsdc.org if you need to add or update yours. Thank you! We hope to have an updated directory the first week in October.

Prayer Intentions for Sept. 14

The Washington Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:

Pray for church musicians and choirs.

In the Wider Anglican Communion, we pray for:

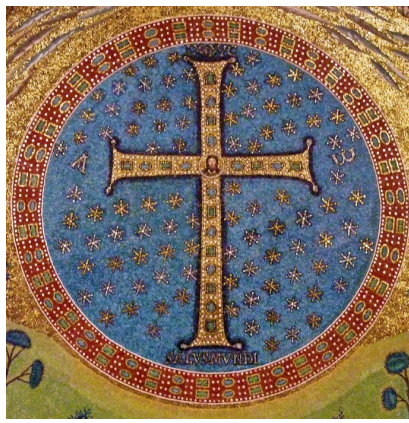
The Anglican Church of South America;

For Those Who are Sick or in Need, we pray especially for:

Robert, Christopher, Laura, Nancy, Warren, Shinn, Charles, Jane, Lisa, Mary, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan;

We Give Thanks for: all those who support the ministry of All Souls Church through their giving of time, talent and treasure.

What is Holy Cross Day?



A major feast observed on Sept. 14 in honor of Christ's self-offering on the cross for our salvation. The collect for Holy Cross Day recalls that Christ "was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself," and prays that "we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him" (BCP, p. 192). The themes of Holy Cross Day are powerfully expressed by the hymn "Lift high the cross" (Hymn 473).

This feast is known as "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross" in the eastern church and in missals and sacramentaries of the western church, and it is known as "The Triumph of the Cross" in the Roman Catholic Church. It was one of the 12 great feasts in the Byzantine liturgy. The 1979 BCP is the first American Prayer Book to include Holy Cross Day.

Historically, the feast has been associated with the dedication on Sept. 14, 335, of a complex of buildings built by the Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337) in Jerusalem on the sites of the crucifixion and Christ's tomb. This shrine included a large basilica and a circular church. Constantine's mother, Helena (c. 255- c. 330), supervised the construction of the shrine, and a relic believed to be the cross was discovered during the work of excavation. Claims by the Church of Jerusalem to have the cross date from the mid-fourth century, and the pilgrim Egeria mentions a feast commemorating the discovery of the cross in Jerusalem in the late-fourth-century.

This feast has also been associated with the exposition at Jerusalem of the cross by the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius (575-641). He recovered the relic from the Persians who took it from Jerusalem in 614 when they destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Although the authenticity of alleged relics of the cross may be questionable, Holy Cross Day provides an opportunity for a joyous celebration of Christ's redeeming death on a cross.

Glossary definitions provided courtesy of Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY (All right reserved) from "An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians," Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors.

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