



ST. MARY'S

ON THE HIGHLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

June 28, 2026

Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM

Welcome to St. Mary's! We are glad that you have joined us for worship. If you are visiting today, please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the offering plate when it is passed to you.

Today is the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. This season in our church year is one of spiritual growth, where in meditating on Jesus' parables, miracles, and challenging teachings, we learn about who our Savior is and to what sort of life he calls us.

Holy Eucharist begins on page 355 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Hymns are found in *The Hymnal 1982*, also located in the pew rack in front of you. "S" numbers are found in the front of the hymnal.

Children are welcome in worship! Nursery is available for children younger than 3K. Over the summer, all children will begin church with parents. Children in preschool-3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel after the Gospel reading. All children will return to their families at the peace.



The nave supports those with hearing impairments via an audio induction loop. Please set your hearing aid to "T" (Telecoil) setting.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

—"A Prayer of Self-Dedication," *The Book of Common Prayer*, 832

The moments before worship are a special opportunity for silence, for reflection, and to come before God in prayer. “Be still, then, and know that I am God” *Psalm 46:11*

Voluntary – Aria

Craig Phillips

Hymn in Procession 525 – The Church’s one foundation

Aurelia

THE WORD OF GOD

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

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

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Gloria in excelsis **S280**

setting – Robert Powell

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 230

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 22:1-14

God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 13 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

1 How long, O LORD?

will you forget me for ever? *

how long will you hide your face from me?

**2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day? ***

how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; *

give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *

my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

6 I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

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.

The Second Lesson

Romans 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we

are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 656 – Blest are the pure in heart

Franconia

The Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children in preschool – 3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel

The Sermon

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD.

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People (*standing*)

BCP 387

Commissioning for St. Mary's parishioners making a pilgrimage to Amistad in Cochabamba, Bolivia

Celebrant and People

The gifts of the Lord were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

Celebrant Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among the people:

People **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!"**

Gracious Father, your Son before he ascended to glory declared that your people would receive power from the Holy Spirit to bear witness to him to the ends of the earth: Be present with all who go forth in his Name. Let your love shine through their witness, so that the blind may see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead be raised up, and the poor have the good news preached to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace (*standing*)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Parish Announcements

All children return to participate in Holy Communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

In addition to the alms basin, St. Mary's offers several ways to give electronically. You may "Text to Give" by texting the keyword 'SMOTH' to 73256. Text giving saves your payment method so you can quickly give the next time. For more information on other methods of giving, please visit

www.stmarysoth.org/give/waystogive/

Offertory Anthem – Christ is made the sure foundation
For text, see hymn 518 in *The Hymnal 1982*, found in the pew racks.

setting – Dale Wood

At the Presentation (*sung by all*)

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

Sanctus – S129

setting – Robert Powell

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Agnus Dei – S163

setting – Robert Powell

Any baptized person may receive Communion. Those who choose not to receive Communion may wish to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing one's arms over one's chest. Gluten free wafers are available by request.

Ushers will be in the center aisles. Movement is from the center aisle to the altar or Communion station to receive the bread and wine. Then return to your pew by way of the side aisle.

Music at Communion

Choir Motet – Verily, verily I say unto you

setting – Thomas Tallis

Verily, verily I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, ye have not life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Hymn 661 – They cast their nets in Galilee (*sung by all*)

Georgetown

Hymn 60 – Creator of the stars of night (*sung by all*)

Conditor alme siderum

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 609 – Where cross the crowded ways of life

Gardiner

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Craig Phillips

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of

Margaret Anderson Hipp

Assisting in our Worship Today

Preacher

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD.

Celebrant

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

Deacon

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

Musicians

The St. Mary's Choir

Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – *Director of Music and Organist*

Assisting in Worship

Fred Blackmon, Jr.

Chalice Bearers

Vivian Terry

Lora Blalock

Cindy Wiley

Lay Readers

Stacy Moon

Micki Haralson

Prayers of the People

Cheryl Brakefield

Acolytes

Fred Blackmon, III

Gray Schoenvogel

Frances McCalley

Lulah Bankhead

Ushers

Spencer Weathers
Stuart Johnson

Dan Weathers
Buddy Moon

Greeters

Paul Angell

Kyle Anderson

Altar Guild

Douglas Thompson
Vicki McGehee
Jodi McDuff

Beverly Kellen
Jennifer Dewees

St. Mary's Flower Guild

VISITING ST. MARY'S?

Welcome! Please pick up a visitor packet from the table in the narthex. We also encourage you to fill out a Visitor Card (found on the back of the pew in front of you) and drop it in the offering plate. You can also scan the QR code to the right to complete the visitor card online. And please introduce yourself to one of the clergy after the service. Thank you so much for worshipping with us.



St. Mary's Building Access

Please keep the motor court beneath RMH open for drop-offs or for those needing access to the elevator. To reach the worship space without using stairs, enter Drennen House from the motor court or from 12th Avenue and take the elevator to level 3R.

Parking at St. Mary's

Monday-Saturday: Parking is available in four places.

- The motor court.
- The lot below the garden (Take steps to the garden and doors to Parish Office.)
- The lot on 12th Avenue behind Ramsay High School ("St. Mary's West Lot")
- Street parking

Sunday:

- **The motor court is reserved for handicapped parking SUNDAYS ONLY.**
- The small lot at the AT&T building- This lot is available on SUNDAYS ONLY.
- Street Parking on both sides of 12th Avenue

Please note:

- *The lot across 12th Avenue behind Mellow Mushroom is a private lot to which we do not have access. Violators will be towed.*
- *Make sure you have a parking decal on your car to avoid being towed from a St. Mary's lot. These are available in the Parish Office.*

Wheelchairs Available

Wheelchairs are available at the Parish Office reception desk, the entrance to Drennen House, and the connector. Please feel free to use them if needed.

City Action Partnership (CAPS) Service Available

CAPS is in the 5 Points South neighborhood. They are available to assist with dead batteries, locked cars, and the unhoused. Please feel free to call them for assistance or to report a concern: 205-251-0111.



PARISH EVENTS

Scan this code for quick, easy access to our website's EVENTS PAGE to view all event details, registration info, and links.

Independence Day Weekend

Please note the following schedule changes for next weekend.

- **Friday, July 3: Parish Office Closed**
- **Sunday, July 5 Worship**
 - 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 - 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist from the 1789 *Book of Common Prayer*
 - NO 5:00 PM SERVICE

House of David

Thursdays through August 13

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM / Living Room

All are welcome! We will watch the first season of the Prime Video Series *House of David*, which depicts the rise of David, tracing his journey from his time as a shepherd to his eventual kingship with the House of David. A group discussion will follow each episode.

Wells Week!

Begins Sunday, July 12

We have planned several events to celebrate the St. Mary's Choir Residency at Wells Cathedral (July 27-August 2).

Sunday, July 12:

- **9:30 AM:** Special Education Presentation on Wells Cathedral with Deanna McCombs in Randolph Memorial Hall
- **10:30 AM:** Holy Eucharist with commissioning of the choir for their residency

Tuesday, July 14:

- **Noon: St. Mary's Book Club with Huey Gardner in the Living Room.** Join Huey for a proper English Tea and a discussion of Jane Austen's classic *Emma*. Austen (1775 – 1817) was an English writer known for her novels that critique and comment on the landed gentry; she lived and wrote in southwest England where Wells is located.

Cursillo Welcome Back Gathering

Sunday, July 12 / 6:00–8:00 PM

Cursillistas, you're invited! Join us as we warmly welcome back our St. Mary's staff members and pilgrim from Cursillo #239 and #240. **Hosted by Paul and Michele Hill.** We will celebrate and hear from Barrie Wilson, Bert and Amy Steindorff (Staff), and Cora Causey (Pilgrim). **Please RSVP to Christy Parsons (christypmail@gmail.com).**

Who Knew? Making Your Home Safer

Thursday, July 16 / 12:30 PM / Living Room

AARP reports that approximately 90% of seniors wish to remain in their own homes as they age. That can feel like a challenge when what used to be easy becomes more difficult or even unsafe. At our next gathering, a local expert will show us how grab bars, ramps, and other changes can make a big difference. Members of our Men's Service Team will also be on hand to answer questions about how they can help. **Contact Dianne Matheson (dianne.h.matheson@gmail.com) or Kaki O'Flinn (kaki@stmarysoth.org) for more information.**

Cleaning Out? Community Furniture Bank can help!

Community Furniture Bank needs your gently used furniture, household items (sheets, towels, art, decorative items, etc.), and appliances to distribute to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness or facing financial hardship. If you are cleaning out this summer, please consider donating your items to Community Furniture Bank; they will even pick up your items! **For more details or to schedule a pickup, call 205-942-2727 or visit www.communityfurniturebank.org.** *We kindly ask that you DO NOT bring donations to St. Mary's. Thank you for your understanding!*

Created for A Purpose: July 20-24

Created for A Purpose is a creative arts camp for girls rooted in Scripture and the good news of the Gospel. Rising 3rd–8th-grade girls are led by high school, college, and adult women from the parish. **Interested in Serving? Scan the QR code above to visit our Events website page and apply or sign up.**

- **Counselors:** Rising 9th–12th grade girls & college women. Rising 10th grade and older will receive a \$200 stipend.
- **Adult Volunteers:** All women of the parish can serve!

Built for a Purpose

Saturday, August 15 / 9:00 AM-4:00 PM / Swan Lake Stables

Built for a Purpose is a fun day for **3rd-8th grade boys** to create, sing, be silly, and learn about Jesus. Using tools, playing games, and learning new skills are all part of the day. **Men and Senior High boys are needed to lead building projects, games, cooking, worship, and Bible teaching.** Cost for campers is \$60. **Registration is now open for campers and volunteers.** **Scan the QR code above to visit the Events page on our website.** Questions? Contact Katie Dewees at katie@stmarysoth.org or 205-881-0704.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Summer Sunday Worship Services

All services listed below begin at 10:30 AM.

- **NEXT SUNDAY, July 5:** Holy Communion from the 1789 *Book of Common Prayer*, the first BCP used in the United States
- **July 12:** Commissioning of the St. Mary's Choir for their Wells Cathedral (UK) Residency (see above for details of our "Wells Week"!)
- **July 26:** Guest preacher at our 10:30 AM service: the diocese's new Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Canon Katie Pearson
- **August 2:** Instructed Eucharist (learn some background on what we do in the liturgy)
- **August 9:** Back to School Blessing
- **August 16:** St. Mary's Sunday

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays / 8:40 AM / Church

All are welcome to join us for this lay-led daily office. Enter Drennen House via the motor court door and take the elevator to Level 3R.

Centering Prayer

Tuesdays / 11:30 AM / Chapel

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian form of silent prayer that is ideal for both corporate and private worship. Our group meets in-person and via Zoom. For Zoom: meeting ID is 3891069314; password is Prayer.

Opportunities to Serve

- **Highlands United Methodist Church Breakfast Ministry** St. Mary's provides volunteers on **Thursdays, 8:30-10:00 AM**. Questions? Contact Monica Sargent (205-913-4689 or monica@stmarysoth.org). To volunteer, please visit www.stmarysoth.org/outreach.

Pastoral Care Ministries

- **The "Loving Well" Support Group for Caregivers is taking a summer break. We will resume in September.** (September dates are Tuesday, Sept. 1 and Tuesday, Sept. 15.)
 - **Home Communion:** If you or someone you know is unable to worship in person and would like to receive a home communion visit, please get in touch with The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org or 205-881-1532.
 - **Hospital Visits:** If you would like to specifically request a visit from the clergy or Pastoral Care Team member, please contact Kaki O'Flinn.
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PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

You may email prayer requests to cissy@stmarysoth.org or call (205) 933-1140.

In an effort to stay current, names will be kept on the list for a month after the date given. If you wish to continue beyond that, please contact us.

For those who await the birth or adoption of a child:

Charles and Olivia Lewis, Brittney and Kellen Watkins

Please pray for our parishioners and staff:

John, Ann, Margaret, Bill, Mike, Jean, Sharon, Debby, Joanne, Chuck, Robin

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Emily, Bob, Colton, Rusty, Sara, Michael, Kym, Tunsten, Ashley, Winnie, Ben, Denise, Jeff

For those who are grieving:

Family of John Bryant, Family of Dr. Merrill Northington Bradley, Family of Carolyn and Buddy Puckett, Family of Rusty Wallace

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

Patty, Judy, Patrick, Todd, Norma, Carley, Andy, Betty, Bart, Natalie, Linda M.

And for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Alex, Brian, Steven, Daniel, Marjory, Jack, Jesse, Richard, Jonah, Robert, John, Isabelle, Frank, Emilio, Truitt, Gilbert

ST. MARY'S ON THE HIGHLANDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1910 12th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

205-933-1140 / www.stmarysoth.org

CLERGY

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner, Rector

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist, Associate Rector

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn/Pastoral Care

The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD./Episcopal DIOALA Chaplain to UAB Medical Center

RETIRED CLERGY

The Rev. Grady Richardson

The Rev. Gates Shaw

Retired clergy who worship and occasionally serve at St. Mary's

LAY STAFF

Emily Ball – *Asst. Children's Minister*

Katie Dewees – *Children's Minister*

Melodie Elam – *Director of Communications and
Hospitality Ministries*

Jessica Hall – *Youth and Young Adult Minister*

Cissy Hartz – *Ministries Coordinator*

Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – *Director of Music and
Organist*

Anne Morgan – *Asst. Children's Minister*

Evan Pezant – *Asst. Youth Minister*

Rhea Pelekis - *Director of Finance*

Monica Sargent – *Outreach Ministries*

Blair Trotter – *Technical Support*

Matt Watson – *Facilities Manager*

Cindy Wiley – *Parish Engagement/Spirituality
Ministries*

VESTRY

Cheryl Brakefield – *Sr. Warden*

George Newton – *Jr. Warden*

Lora Blalock

David Cain

Gordon Martin

Clayton Trotter

Camille Epps

Emily Holmes

Jeanie MacKenzie

Larry Sedar

Brooks Adams

Bert Amason – *Clerk*

Stuart Beale

Kelly Seibels

Elizabeth Wyatt

Bentley Sloan – *Treasurer*

Patrick Toomey – *Asst. Treasurer*

Meade Whitaker – *Legal Counsel*



ST. MARY'S

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