



ST. MARY'S
ON THE HIGHLANDS
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

June 7, 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 Second 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 – Flötenuhrstücke, Hob.XIX (‘Pieces for Musical Clocks’) Franz Joseph Haydn
Allegretto – Allegro – Allegretto – Marche

Hymn in Procession 412 – Earth and all stars

Earth and All Stars

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 229

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; 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 12:1-9

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he

built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149 (*sung by the choir*)

chant – Charles Villiers Stanford

This Psalm will be sung by the choir on their tour to Wells Cathedral this Summer.

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song *
let the congregation of saints praise him.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him *
and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance *
let them sing praises unto him with tabret and harp.
- 4 For the Lord hath pleasure in his people *
and helpeth the meek-hearted.
- 5 Let the saints be joyful with glory *
let them rejoice in their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their mouth *
and a two-edged sword in their hands;
- 7 To be avenged of the heathen *
and to rebuke the people;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron.
- 9 That they may be avenged of them, as it is written *
Such honour have all his saints.

The Second Lesson

Romans 4:13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a

hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 393 – Praise our great and gracious Lord

Maoz Zur

The Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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

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

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

Hymn (*sung by all*)

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

Section: Spiritual Songs. Title: Bless the Lord my soul. Words: Psalm 103. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994). Copyright: Music: © 1984 Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-742972.

Hymn 676 – There is balm in Gilead (*sung by all*)

Balm in Gilead

Hymn 706 – In your mercy, Lord, you called me (*sung by all*)

Halton Holgate

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 493 – O for a thousand tongues to sing

Azmon

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Lentement (Piece d'orgue, BWV 572)

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Charles Hilton Locke
Bess (Bitsy) Edmundson Coleman
Patricia Young Fontaine

Assisting in our Worship Today

Preacher

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

Celebrant

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

Deacons

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn
The Rev. Deacon John I. Kennedy Jr., MD.

Musicians

The St. Mary's Choir
Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – *Director of Music and Organist*

Assisting in Worship

Pam Stone

Chalice Bearers

Jennifer Dewees Phil Black
Emily Rushing

Lay Readers

Buddy Moon Dale Stone

Prayers of the People

Micki Haralson

Acolytes

Frances McCalley Lulah Bankhead
Hank Ball

Ushers

Blair Badham
Alice Yeates

Alex Goldsmith
Clint Thompson

Greeters

Susanne Esdale

Jane Clapp

Altar Guild

Jennifer Dewees
Phyllis Pelham

Laura McAlister

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.

Middlers Dinner

Thursday, June 18 / 6:00-8:30 PM

This event for adults in their 40s and 50's will be hosted by Hill and Dan Weathers (44 Country Club Road, 35213). BYOB. \$15 pp to cover the food cost. **RSVP by paying via Venmo to @Hill-Weathers.** Please include your email address with your Venmo so we can send you parking information.

June Book Club

Tuesday, June 16 / Noon / Living Room

For our June Book Club, **Katie Dewees** will lead our discussion of *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Bring your lunch—we'll provide treats and, as always, a lively discussion.

June Who Knew???

Wills, Trusts, and Other Types of Post-Death Asset Transfer

Thursday, June 18 / 12:30 PM / Living Room

Ever heard that you can't take it with you? All of an individual's assets will pass to someone else upon death. Who receives what and how depends on many factors. Join **parishioner Dale Stone**, who will offer insight into structuring asset transfers at death, drawing on his long experience as an estate planning attorney. *Contact Emily Rushing or Kaki O'Flinn to learn more about our regular monthly gatherings or to suggest a topic.*

Beginner Knitting Classes

Monday & Wednesday, June 22 & 24

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM / Room 309



If you have ever wanted to learn to knit, we have a treat for you! Our very own master knitter, Katherine Berdy, will offer beginning knitting classes for adults this month. We will learn the knit and purl stitches on Monday and how to cast on and off on Wednesday. *Materials will be provided, so all you have to do is show up ready to learn. We do need an exact head count for materials, so please register!*

St. Mary's Night at the Birmingham Barons
Thursday, June 25 / 6:30 PM

- **Join us for an evening of fun at Regions Field's Banquet Patio**, where the Barons will face off against the Knoxville Smokies. The Patio is a COVERED, open-air deck with a great view of the field along the third base line. Gates open at 6PM, and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM: burgers, Dreamland BBQ, beans, chips, bagged cookies, and soft drinks.
- **Scan the QR code to reserve your tickets**; if you do not have internet access, please call Melodie Elam at 205-881-1261. **Tickets are \$15 for everyone aged 3 and up**, and we kindly ask that payment be made to secure your reservation. **Deadline is June 15**; no refunds after that date.



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

Registration Now Open!

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.

- **June 21:** Holy Communion from the *Prayer Book of The Anglican Church in Japan*
- **June 28:** Commissioning of parishioners who are traveling to Amistad Mission (Bolivia)
- **July 5:** Holy Communion from the 1789 *Book of Common Prayer*, the first US BCP
- **July 19:** Commissioning of the St. Mary's Choir for their Wells Cathedral (UK) Residency, plus payers for Created for a Purpose
- **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.

St. Mary's Cursillo Community

We've got a lot of great things happening this year, and we'd love for you to be part of it! If you're already a Cursillista, **please join the St. Mary's Cursillo group on Realm** to stay connected.

Interested in attending Cursillo? Please contact our Parish Lay Rector, Christy Parsons, through Realm for more information. The next Cursillo weekend is Cursillo #241, October 8-11.

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 will meet on June 2 and June 15.** This group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at **2:00 PM in the Chapel**. It supports parish caregivers, offering community and relief from the loneliness and frustration of caregiving. Facilitators are Cler Layton and Kaki O'Flinn.
 - **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, David, Sharon, Elizabeth, Jeff, Buddy, Carolyn,
Debby, Joanne

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Allison, Emily, Bob, Colton, Rusty, Sara, Michael, Kym

For those who are grieving:

Family of Ben Russell, Family of John Bryant, Family of Dr. Merrill Northington Bradley

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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