



ST. MARY'S

ON THE HIGHLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

August 16, 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 we celebrate the Feast of St. Mary. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is our congregation's patron saint. Eastern Christianity calls her the *theotokos*, or "God-bearer," while the Roman Catholic Church honors Mary as "Queen among saints." Many Protestant traditions acknowledge and revere Mary's special relationship to Jesus and the open, trusting faith she models. Our church furnishings incorporate one of Mary's most popular symbols, the lily; the cushions at our altar rail depict scenes from her life; and her color, Marian blue, is found throughout this worship space, denoting purity and truth.

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.

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 God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Collect of a Saint, 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" *Psalms 46:11*

Voluntary - March Grand Choeur
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

George Frideric Handel
Johannes Brahms

Introit – Ave Maria (*sung by the choir*)

Jacobo Arcadelt

Sung in Latin: Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Hymn in Procession - Sing we of the blessed Mother

Abbot's Leigh

1 Sing we of the bless - ed Moth - er who re - ceived the an gel's word,
2 Sing we, too, of Ma - ry's sor - rows, of the sword that pierced her through,
3 Sing a - gain the joys of Ma - ry when she saw the ri - sen Lord,
4 Sing the chief - est joy of Ma - ry when on earth her work was done,

and o - bed - ient to his sum - mons bore in love the in - fant
when be - neath the cross of Je - sus she his weight of suf - fering
and in prayer with Christ's a - pos - tles, wait - ed on his prom - ised
and the Lord of all cre - a - tion brought her to his heaven - ly

Lord; sing we of the joys of Ma - ry at whose breast that child was
knew, looked u - pon her Son and Sa - viour reign - ing high on Cal - vary's
word: from on high the blaz - ing glo - ry of the Spir - it's pre - sence
home: Vir - gin Moth - er Ma - ry bless - ed, raised on high and crowned with

fed, who is Son of God e - ter - nal and the ev - er - last - ing Bread.
tree, saw the price of our re - demp - tion paid to set the sin - ner free.
came, Heaven - ly breath of God's own be - ing, man - i - fest through wind and flame.
grace. May your Son, the world's re - deem - er, grant us all to see his face.

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 S278

setting – William Mathias

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 243

O God, you have taken to yourself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of your incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-8 (*sung by the choir*)

chant – Edgar Day

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.

7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

The Second Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn in Procession 460 - Alleluia! sing to Jesus (*stanzas 1, 3, & 4*)

Hyfrydol

The Gospel

Luke 1:46-55

Minister The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Minister The Gospel of the Lord.

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

At the Gospel Procession – Fanfare

David N. Johnson

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

The Sermon

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People (*standing*)

BCP 387

Confession of Sin (*kneeling*)

BCP 360

The Peace (*standing*)

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Parish Announcements and Introduction of New Members

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 - Magnificat in D Major

setting – Roland E. Martin

For text, see page 65 in *The Book of Common Prayer*, found in the pew racks.

At the Presentation (*sung by all*)

Lasst uns erfreuen

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

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

Sanctus – S128 (sung by all)

setting – William Mathias

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Agnus Dei – S165 (sung by all)

setting – William Mathias



Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*. Music: William Mathias (b. 1934). Reprinted with permission under One License #A-742972.

*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.*

*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.
Ushers will be in the center aisles.*

Music during Communion:

Choir Motet – The Song of Mary

setting – Larry King

For text, see pages 91-92 in *The Book of Common Prayer*, found in the pew racks.

Hymn 620 – Jerusalem, my happy home (*sung by all*)

Land of Rest

Hymn 269 – Ye who claim the faith of Jesus (*sung by all*)

Den des Vaters Sinn geboren

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to Randolph Memorial Hall for a potluck luncheon!

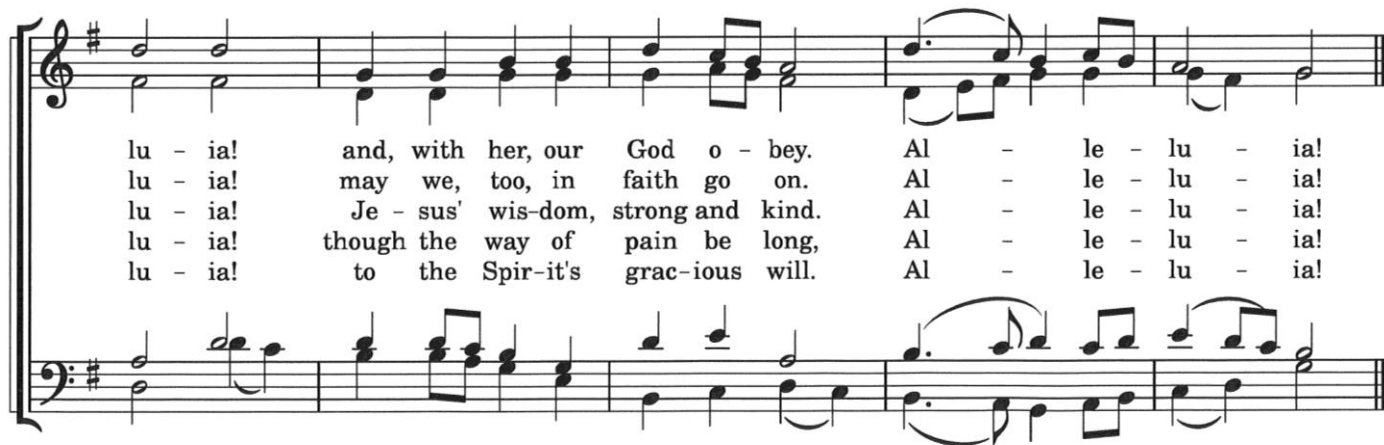
Hymn in Procession - Mary, Mother of our Lord, Alleluia!

Llanfair

1 Ma - ry, mo - ther of our Lord, Al - le - lu - ia! bore the true and
2 Whenshe did not un - der - stand Al - le - lu - ia! what would come of
3 Ma - ry, listen - ing, took her part, Al - le - lu - ia! treas - ured all things
4 Ma - ry, weep - ing, at the cross, Al - le - lu - ia! loved her son and
5 Ma - ry knew the Spir - it's power Al - le - lu - ia! in the church as

li - ving Word. Al - le lu - ia! May we too, con - sent to day, Al - le -
God's com - mand, Al - le - lu - ia! still she served the Ho - ly One; Al - le -
in her heart; Al - le - lu - ia! so, with Ma - ry, may we find Al - le -
knew the cost; Al - le - lu - ia! may our love, as hers, be strong Al - le -
wind and fire; Al - le lu - ia! may our church be op - en still Al - le -

Continued...



Mary, mother of our Lord. Words: George Boorne Tims (1910-1997). Music: *Llanfair*, Robert Williams (1781-1821). Reprinted by permission One License #A-742972.

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet

Brass arrangements of today's hymns are by Richard Webster, Daniel Fortune, and David Benson.

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

Clarence Morton Ayers

Marjorie Mitchell Ayers

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. Joe Ardovino, Dr. Brad Sargent – trumpet

Kevin Kozak – French horn

Dr. Mark Foster – trombone

Luke Nelson – bass trombone
Chanse Nelson – timpani
Dr. James Cook – organ
Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. – Director of Music and Organist

Assisting in Worship
Fred Blackmon, Jr.

Chalice Bearers

Cindy Wiley	Phil Black
Melissa Bailey	

Lay Readers

Clay McCollum	Buddy Moon
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Prayers of the People
Skip Dorlon

Acolytes

James Trotter	Webb Hawley
Oliver Mange	Fred Blackmon, III

Ushers

Greg Ellis	Atkins Roberts
John Allen Roberts	Cheryl Brakefield

Greeter
Skip Dorlon

Altar Guild

Melissa Bailey	Mary Hubbard
Emily Rich	Evie Vare

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.*

August Gathering of *Who Knew?*

Thursday, August 20 / 12:30 PM / Living Room

"Making the Broken Beautiful"

Join us for our August gathering as **Kaki O'Flinn** explores the Japanese art of **Kintsugi** as a metaphor for how precious we are when we are restored after great sorrow. Kintsugi involves repairing pottery with gold, rejoining the broken pieces to create something even more beautiful. As we do every month, *Who Knew?* invites you to listen, ask questions, and learn together. **Contact Kaki or Emily Rushing for more information or to suggest a topic for future gatherings.**

Calling All Catechists!

All catechists are invited to spend time in the atria before September! Help spruce up the spaces or review lessons. **Doors open 9:30 AM-11:30 AM on these Wednesdays: August 19, 26, and September 2.** Join us if you can! Questions? Contact Emily Ball at emily@stmarysoth.org.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Atrium Orientation

Sunday, August 23 / 9:45-10:30 AM / Level 1 Atrium

Children entering 3K and their parents are invited to Atrium Orientation to learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, our approach to children's Christian formation at St. Mary's! Meet us in the Level 1

Atrium (Room 205) on the Children's Hall of Drennen House. Questions? Contact Katie Dewees at katie@stmarysoth.org.

Men of the Church Gathering
Wednesday, August 26 / 5:00 PM / Key Circle Commons

The Men of the Church will meet for fellowship and toast the end of summer at Key Circle Commons! All are welcome; no need to RSVP. Please invite a friend!

Music at St. Mary's 2026-2027

Brochures were mailed last week for the third season of Music at St. Mary's. If you did not receive one or would like one to share with family and friends, copies are available throughout the church or by contacting John Lowe (john@stmarysoth.org).

Glen Iris Elementary Christmas!

We're collecting funds for the Glen Iris Bag Packing project in December to provide meals for their students and families. Packing for 800+ students costs about \$5500, covering food, bags, and delivery. Every donation helps these children. **Please donate this summer by scanning the QR code to the right or by sending a check to Rhea Pelekis at the Parish Office.** (Be sure to put "Glen Iris Christmas" in the memo line.) *AND: Save the date of Saturday, December 12, to help pack bags.* **Thanks for your support!**



ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.** **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, Debby, Chuck, Bert, Ricky, Billy, Larry, David

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Kylie, Linda, Nancy, Andy, Joe, Carl, Jim, Stephanie, Neal, Lucy, Haley, Madison, Charles, Sophia, Noah

For those who are grieving:

Family of Roger Killian, Family of Kristen DeLaney, Family of Charlie Whittemore, Family of Betty Little,
Family of Teeny Carson, Family of Peyton Bibb

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

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

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*



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