



ST. MARY'S

ON THE HIGHLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

September 13, 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 Sixteenth 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. Children in 3K-5K begin the service in Kids' Word, room 203. Children ages 1st-3rd grades begin in church and 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” *Psalms 46:11*

Voluntary – Chorale Prelude: Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

Johann Sebastian Bach

Hymn in Procession 397 – Now thank we all our God

Nun danket alle Gott

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 233

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the

Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 60 – Creator of the stars of night (*stanzas 1 through 5*) *Conditor alme siderum*

The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the

reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children in grades 1 through 3 follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel

Hymn 60 – Creator of the stars of night (*stanza 6*)

Conditor alme siderum

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

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

Pastoral Care Commissioning

The Peace (*standing*)

BCP 360

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 – Most glorious Lord of life setting – William H. Harris
Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy triumph over death and sin and, having harrowed hell, didst bring away captivity thence captive, us to win, this joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin, and grant that we for whom thou didst die, being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin, may live forever in felicity; and that thy love we weighing worthily, may likewise love thee for the same again; and for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy, with love may one another entertain. So let us love, dear love, like as we ought; love is the lesson which the Lord us taught. *Edmund Spenser*

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 – S128 (sung by all) setting – William Mathias

The Breaking of the Bread BCP 364

Agnus Dei – S165 (sung by all) setting – William Mathias

Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

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*)

Descant

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

A

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

B

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i ³ - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.

Ubi caritas. Words: Latin, 8th c., tr. Malcolm Naea Chun (b. 1954). Music: Jacques Berthier (1923–1994). Copyright: Words: © Malcolm Naea Chun. Music: © 1984 Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-742972.

Choir Motet – Draw us in the Spirit’s tether setting – Jack Ossewaarde
Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name, two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them; alleluia, alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.
Percy Dearmer

Hymn 341 – For the bread which you have broken (*sung by all*) *Omni die*

Postcommunion Prayer BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 334 – Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing *Alles is an Gottes Segen*

Dismissal BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Now thank we all our God J. S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox

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

Carrie and Richard Bowron
Edie and Fred Middleton
Yates and Tommy Amason
Starr and Tommy Amason

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
Teal Cuellar

Chalice Bearers
Cindy Wiley
Vivian Terry
Hugh Rushing

Lay Readers
Atkins Roberts
Brianna Cuellar

Prayers of the People
Briana Cuellar

Acolytes
James Trotter
Hank Ball
Liza Trotter
Drew Russ

Ushers
Nate Cartmell
Walker Martin
Gordon Martin
Paul Angell

Greeters
Pride Fisher
Leah Taylor

Altar Guild
Michele Hill
Claire Hardesty
Andy Hardesty
Carolyn Long

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.*

Parish Fellowship Breakfast and Adult Christian Education Resume TODAY!

- **Parish Fellowship Breakfast: 8:45 to 9:25 AM in Randolph Memorial Hall** On any Sunday with Christian Education, we also offer a hot breakfast. Join us in RMH for delicious food and even better company! Suggested donation: \$5 per person ages 6+ / \$20 family max.
- **Christian Education: 9:30 to 10:15 AM**
 - **Adult Forum in Randolph Memorial Hall**
 - September 20: *Jeff Baker, Associate Dean of Experiential Learning and Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Alabama*

- September 27: *Amistad from the Children's Point of View* ** in the Living Room
- October 4: *Stefana Laing, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Old Testament at Beeson Divinity School*
- October 11: *The Digital Discipleship: Finding Faith in a Wired World*
- October 18: *Stewardship Sunday*
- October 25: *Alex Kirk, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School*
- November 1: *The Great Cloud of Witnesses-All Saints' Sunday*
- November 8: *Joshua Chatran, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School*
- **"Open Reunion" Coffee Hour in Room 307** If fellowship is what you're seeking on Sunday morning, join the gathering in Room 307.

House of David -Season 2

Thursdays / 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM / Living Room

We watch and discuss Season 2 of the Prime Video Series *House of David* on Thursday mornings **through October 15**. In October, we will meet in Room 307.

EYC Kickoff!

TODAY! / 5:00 PM / Ground Floor-Drennen House

Come join us to start the new EYC year! We'll have dinner, hear about everyone's summer, and get excited for EYC this fall. New EYC t-shirts, books, and Bibles for everyone. Bring a friend, see you there!

Rector's Bible Studies Resume This Week

The Men's Tuesday early-morning and Women's Wednesday mid-morning sessions will begin this coming week:

- **Men's Study: Begins Tuesday, September 15**, at 7:10 AM in Room 309
- **Women's Study: Begins Wednesday, September 16**, at 10:10 AM in Randolph Memorial Hall

We will start the year by studying several psalms and their historical community roles, including their role in temple worship, their link to King David, and our use of them in Sunday services. We will also read David Gibson's 2023 book on the 23rd Psalm, which has expanded my understanding of what the Good Shepherd has done as a companion and host. Please bring a friend! ~ Huey

Devoted Study Group

Tuesdays Beginning September 15

9:15 AM-11:00 AM / Room 307

We start with Priscilla Shirer's *Faith and Fire: Elijah* as the opening 7-week study. Please purchase the book before the start date. Any questions, please contact Kaki at kaki@stmarysoth.org.

Loving Well Support Meeting

Tuesday, September 15 / 2:00 PM / Chapel

If you find yourself in a new season in life in which you need encouragement, comfort, community support, and a place to question and share, please consider the *Loving Well* offering- a confidential, God- centered tool for wherever you are as a caregiver. **We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month**. All are welcome. Contact Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org for more information.

New "Hope and Healing" Group
Wednesday, September 16 / 12:05 PM / Living Room

Are you facing an illness and don't know who to talk to? Do you need someone to listen to you? Our confidential *Hope & Healing Group* can be the Spiritual Support Community you need! **We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month through November.** Facilitated by Kaki O'Flinn and Caroline Adams.

Who Knew? In your final moments
Thursday, September 17 / 12:30 PM / Living Room

Parishioner and lawyer **Dale Stone** returns to our Who Knew? gathering as we follow up on questions about the Alabama Advance Directive for Health Care and the legal effect of an Advance Directive. Joining him are other parishioners who have experience with those final moments at a hospital bedside, including **John Kennedy and Cler Layton.** *Contact Emily Rushing or Kaki O'Flinn to find out more or to suggest a topic.*

Ladies Gathering
Thursday, September 17 / 5:00-7:00 PM / Magnolia Point

Ladies, mark your calendars for our next gathering at Magnolia Point! Appetizers will be provided, and everyone can purchase their own drink of choice. Grab a friend and join us!

Club 456 Kick Off Party!
Sunday, September 20 / Noon-2:00 PM
Randolph Memorial Hall

Calling all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders! Meet us in RMH to kick-off the new program year! Please RSVP to Katie Dewees at kaki@stmarysoth.org by September 13.

Music at St. Mary's Dinner & A Show!
Sunday, September 20 / 5:30 PM / Randolph Memorial Hall

An evening of pasta (**gluten free option available**), beverages, and entertainment from the St. Mary's Choir and Friends! Suggested dinner donation: \$20/person or \$45/family max. **Seating is limited! Please RSVP by signing up. (Scan this QR code.)**



Wednesday Evening Series for Young Parents
Four Wednesdays: September 30-October 21
5:30 PM in Randolph Memorial Hall

Dinner and childcare provided! On four Wednesday evenings, we will offer evening classes for parents of young families. Dinner will be served in Randolph Memorial Hall starting at 5:30 PM, and child care will be available during the class from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Speakers include Paul and Mary Zahl, Russ and Laura Levenson, Huey and Irene Gardner, and Dale Wisely.

Seeking Encouragers for Horizons School Students!

Individuals and families are invited to become Encouragers for our neighbors at Horizons School. Volunteers serve as resources and cheerleaders for the student, staying in touch and enjoying activities together throughout the year. **For more information or to sign up, please contact Monica Sargent at monica@stmarysoth.org.**

Special Education Opportunity at Beeson Divinity School:

The New Testament Gospels

Jonathan Linebaugh, Ph.D.-Anglican Chair of Divinity

Six Monday Evenings Beginning September 21

The New Testament Gospels will explore the historical contexts, the genre, and especially the content and message of the four New Testament Gospels. More info and sign up available at www.samford.edu/beeson-divinity/lay-academy.

Vestry Election and Annual Parish Meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 22 / 9:15 AM / Randolph Memorial Hall

More information will be announced soon regarding Vestry nominations and election.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music at St. Mary's 2026-2027

Brochures have been mailed 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).

Morning Prayer

Monday-Friday / 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

- **Hospital Visits:** If you would like to specifically request a visit from the clergy or Pastoral Care Team member, please contact 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.
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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, Jackie and Will Hollingsworth,
Sullins and Elliott Oslund

Please pray for our parishioners and staff:

John, Ann, Margaret, Bill, Mike, Jean, Debby, Chuck, Larry, Mary

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Nancy, Lucy, Haley, Madison, Charles, Noah, Tommy, Libba

For those who are grieving:

Family of Peyton Bibb, Family of Linda Martin Stewart, Family of Jim Nance, Family of
Billy Hiden, Family of Ricky Bromberg, Family of Marty Massey Brown

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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