



ST. MARY'S
ON THE HIGHLANDS
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

September 14, 2025

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 Fourteenth 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 Baptism begins on page 299 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. children 3K-Kindergarten begin the service in Kids' Word. Children 1st-3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel after the Gospel reading. All children 3K-6th grade 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 – Adagio (Suite for Organ)

Tommaso Albinoni

Hymn in Procession 393 – Praise our great and gracious Lord

Maoz Zur

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

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 32:7-14

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self,

saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Psalm 51:1-11 (*sung by the choir*)

chant – Tone VII
Fauxbourdon by Thomas Tallis
ed. Scott Dettra

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

The Second Lesson

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I

received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Sequence Hymn 489 – The great Creator of the worlds

Tallis' Ordinal

The Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

Children 1st-3rd grade follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel

The Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

BCP 301

Chapman MacClary Hollingsworth

*A renunciation of evil is made facing the west.
A profession of faith in Christ is made facing the east and Jerusalem.*

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

Sanctus – S128

setting – William Mathias

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Agnus Dei – S165

setting – William Mathias

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 470 – There's a wideness in God's mercy (*sung by all*)

Beecher

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

Halton Holgate

Prayers for the Parish

Prayer for the Election of the Bishop of Alabama (*Celebrant and People*)

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for The Diocese of Alabama, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 569 – God the Omnipotent! King, who ordainest

Russia

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Toccata in G Major

W. H. Pachelbel

The Flowers on the Altar are given to
The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

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

Assisting in our Worship Today

Preacher

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

Celebrant

The Rev. Richard Ahlquist

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

Musicians

The St. Mary's Choir

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

Assisting in Worship

Meade Whitaker

Chalice Bearers

Dale Stone	Cindy Wiley
Tommy Roberts	

Lay Readers

Pam Stone	Jordan DeMoss
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Ushers

Tucker Brown	Nate Cartmell
John Dorlon	Ron Williamson

Acolytes

Bennett DeMoss	Hank Ball
Stephen Brown	Richmond Brown

Greeters

Pride Fisher	Leah Taylor
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Altar Guild

Michele Hill
Carolyn Long

Pam Stone

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.*

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 all event info and registrations!

Vestry Slate Nominations

Our Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Elections will be Sunday, November 23. If you would like to nominate someone for the Vestry slate, please reach out (confidentially) to any member of the **Nominating Committee:** retiring Vestry members Clint Thompson, Kathy Clayton, Clay McCollum, Dean Nix; at-large members Beverley Hoyt, Don Cosper, Barrie Wilson, Greg Ellis. **Deadline to submit nominees is Friday, September 26.**

Parish Fellowship Breakfasts

Sunday Mornings / 8:45 to 9:25 AM / 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.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday Mornings / 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM

This fall, we will offer two excellent opportunities for learning, study, and fellowship!

- **The Life and Works of C.S. Lewis**
Led by Norman Jetmundsen in Randolph Memorial Hall, September 7, 14, and 28
(On September 21, Richard Ahlquist will lead our discussion.)
Norman Jetmundsen, local attorney, CS Lewis scholar, and author of *The Soulbane Stratagem* and *The Soulbane Illusion* (both a follow-on to Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*), will lead a discussion on one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century.
- **Hidden Treasures**
Led by Dave Dresher, Micki Haralson, David Cain, and Cheryl Brakefield in the Living Room, September 7-November 16
"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field." – Matthew 13:44 Jesus' parables are treasures in their own right. These short and simple stories contain limitless wisdom that grows with each encounter. Come prepared to hear these stories with fresh ears and uncover what hides below the surface.
- **Later this Fall:**
 - **October 5, 12, 19: "The Anxious Generation"** with Richard Ahlquist and Cindy Wiley
 - **October 26: "Called: A Short Course on Finding God's Purpose for Your Life"** with the Rev. Cameron Nations.

Weekly Study Gatherings

- **Devoted Small Group for Women: Tuesdays, 9:15-10:30 AM / Room 307**
We are currently reading and discussing **Tim Keller's** *The Prodigal God*. Please contact **Kaki O'Flinn** at kaki@stmarysoth.org for more details.
- **"The Chosen" Viewing and Discussion: Thursdays, 10:15 AM-Noon / Living Room**
Watch the latest season of "The Chosen" followed by a discussion facilitated by Kaki O'Flinn.

- **Rector's Bible Studies:** This fall, we will explore several writings of Paul. We will start with what is considered the earliest of the epistles, Galatians.
 - **The Women's Study: Wednesdays** at 10:10 AM in Randolph Memorial Hall.
 - **The Men's Study** will start at 7:10 AM **THIS Tuesday, September 16.**
 - Both will also be offered via Microsoft Teams. Email Melodie Elam (melodie@stmarysoth.org) to be added to the distribution list for study notes and Teams link.

The St. Mary's Handbell Choir

We have openings for the 2025-2026 season. The choir is open to high-school-age and above, and rehearsals begin Monday, September 8, from 5-6 p.m. in the Choir Room. Contact John Lowe (john@stmarysoth.org) for more information.

Club 456 Skating Party

TODAY!! / 2:00-4:00 PM / Skates 280

All kids in grades 4-6 are invited! Grab a friend, bring \$5, and meet us at Skates 280. RSVP to Katie Dewees at katie@stmarysoth.org.

EYC Kickoff!

TODAY!! / 5:00 PM / Randolph Memorial Hall

Join us for worship, good food (TACO MAMA!), and great company! We'll have new T-shirts, books, and Bibles for everyone. Bring a friend – see you there! Email Jessica (jessica@stmarysoth.org) or Evan (evan@stmarysoth.org) with questions!

Who Knew? About Your Emergency Checklist

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

Do you have a flashlight when power goes out? How about a list of medicines if you have to go to the hospital unexpectedly? Join us for our next meeting when we learn more from **Christy Baynes, founder of LifeCare for Seniors**, about how we can prepare for the unexpected, especially if we are older. A light lunch will be provided; **please RSVP to Dianne Matheson** (dianne.h.matheson@gmail.com).

Men of the Church Steak Cook-Out

Thursday, September 18 / 5:30 PM / Motor Court & RMH

Bring your own steaks to grill in the Motor Court. We will eat together in Randolph Memorial Hall. Baked potatoes and salad (plus water and tea) will be provided. BYO adult beverage and a friend! **Please RSVP to Clint Thompson at 205-999-4752 or** Clint.thompson@home.com.

Ladies Gathering!

Thursday, September 25 at 5:30 PM

Grab a friend and meet us at **Magnolia Point** (2234 Magnolia Ave.) for some after-work fellowship!

Choral Evensong in Memory of the Five Points South Shooting

Sunday, September 21 / 5:30 PM / St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church invites you to a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, September 21. Organ Prelude begins at 5:15 PM. Offered on the one-year anniversary of the Five Points South

Shooting, this service of scripture, music, and prayer seeks God's peace and healing in our community. All are welcome.

Organ & Harpsichord Recital
followed by Evensong
Sunday, September 28 at 4:30 PM

The *Music at St. Mary's* series continues with an organ/harpsichord recital featuring A. Mitchell Stecher followed by Evensong for the Eve of the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels on Sunday, Sept. 28. The St. Mary's Choir is directed by John Lowe and features music of Malcolm Archer, St. Mary's own Greg Evans, Samuel Wesley, Harold Friedell, and Ernest Bullock. **A reception in Randolph Memorial Hall follows the evensong service!**

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekday 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. On the first Thursday of the month, members of our choir lead a sung service of Morning Prayer.

Clothing Collection

Our community ministry partner, Highlands United Methodist Church, manages a clothing closet for our neighborhood friends in need. **We are collecting the following items to support this ministry:**

- Gently used men's and women's clothing (such as t-shirts, tops, sweatshirts, jackets, belts, and pants)
- Gently used men's and women's tennis shoes
- New men's and women's underwear and socks

All donations can be left in the St. Mary's Outreach office.

Opportunities to Serve

- **GED Food Volunteers:** St. Mary's GED program needs lunch and snack volunteers! Each week during the school year, parishioners provide lunch Tuesday-Thursday for the students and their children. This is a fun, easy, and flexible way to serve an amazing and growing ministry. For more information or to sign up to help, please contact Allison Manley at 205-266-1199 or Allison.manley@gmail.com.
- **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

- **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.

Glen Iris Christmas Bag Packing Project

We are partnering again with The Advent and St. Luke's to support Glen Iris Elementary students during Christmas. **Currently, we are soliciting funds to buy food for the bags. Scan the QR code to donate online or send a check to St. Mary's with "Glen Iris bag packing" in the memo.** We will pack bags on Saturday, December 13, 1:00-3:00 PM at Randolph Memorial Hall.



Link to Realm Database Login Now on Website

We now have a link on our website's home page that will take you directly to Realm's login page! Look for the icon shown to the right. If you need any assistance with Realm, please contact Melodie Elam at 205-881-1261 or melodie@stmarysoth.org.



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:

Alex and Preston Ratliff, Charles and Olivia Lewis, Evalyn and Hampton McFadden, Maggie and Henry

Please pray for our parishioners and staff:

John, Ann, Tommy, Jean, Margaret, Bill, Linda, George, John, Stephanie, Patty, Suzanne, Joe, Eleanor

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Mark, Bill, Jennifer, Bart, Donna, Jane, Whitton, Hawthorne, Sarah, Jesse, Connie, Jim

For those who are grieving:

Family of Sara Moody, Family of Julie Gard Schnuelle, Family of Charlie Kirk

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

Linda, Sue, Patty, Sherry, Judy, Patrick, Todd, Norma, Carley, Andy

And for those serving in the Armed Forces:

Alex, Brian, Steven, Daniel, Marjory, Jack, Jesse, Richard, Jonah, Robert, John, Isabelle

ST. MARY'S ON THE HIGHLANDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1910 12th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

205-933-1140 / www.stmarysoth.org

CLERGY

The Reverend H. Huey Gardner, Rector
The Reverend Richard Ahlquist, Associate Rector
The Reverend Deacon Kaki O'Flinn, Deacon / Pastoral Care
The Reverend Grady Richardson, Associate Clergy
The Reverend Gates Shaw, Associate Clergy

LAY STAFF

John Bryant – *Facilities Assistant*
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*
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

Clint Thompson – *Sr. Warden*
Cheryl Brakefield – *Jr. Warden*
Kathy Clayton
Meg Krawczyk
Clay McCollum
Dean Nix
Lora Blalock
David Cain
Gordon Martin
Clayton Trotter
Camille Epps
Emily Holmes – *Clerk*
Jeanie MacKenzie
George Newton
Larry Sedar

Michael Schilleci – *Treasurer*
Bentley Sloan – *Asst. Treasurer*
Meade Whitaker – *Legal Counsel*



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