



ST. MARY'S

ON THE HIGHLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

September 6, 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 Fifteenth 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” *Psalms 46:11*

Voluntary – Adagio in D-flat

Franz Liszt

Hymn in Procession 376 – Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymn to Joy

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 233

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning

you shall burn. 'This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149 (*sung by the choir*)

setting – C. V. Stanford

This Psalm was 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 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 546 – Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve

Siroë

The Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 Kaki O’Flinn

BCP 358

BCP 387

BCP 360

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/

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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 617 – Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round (*sung by all*)

Song 1

Hymn 674 – “Forgive our sins as we forgive” (*sung by all*)

Detroit

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Blessing

Hymn in Procession 347 – Go forth for God

Litton

Dismissal

BCP 366

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary – Postlude on ‘Old Hundredth’

Fred Sampson

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

Elizabeth G. Wilson
Frank C. Wilson, Jr.
Louise Agee Golightly
Mary Elizabeth Agee

Assisting in our Worship Today

Preacher

The Rev. Deacon Kaki O'Flinn

Celebrant

The Rev. H. Huey Gardner

Deacon

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

Dale Stone
Skip Dorlon

Teal Cuellar

Lay Readers

Evan Pezant

Julianna Wells

Prayers of the People

Jennifer Dewees

Acolytes

Turner Holmes
Mica Cuellar

Spencer Weathers

Ushers

Dan Weathers
Davies Hood

Alex Goldsmith
Greg Ellis

Greeters

Jane Clap

Pride Fisher

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 worshiping 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 Next Sunday, September 13

- **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 13: *Growing Our Circle of Care: New Initiatives and Upcoming Plans in Pastoral Care plus A Preview of This Fall's Christian Ed Offerings*
 - September 20: *Jeff Baker, Associate Dean of Experiential Learning and Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Alabama*
 - October 4: *Stefana Laing, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Old Testament at Beeson Divinity School*
 - **"Open Reunion" Coffee Hour in Room 307**
 - **Youth Education (grades 7-12) on the Ground Level of Drennen House**
 - **Children's Formation on Level 2 of Drennen House** (Catechesis Level III for grades 4-6 is located on Level 1 past the Parish Office.)

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.

Loving Well Support Meeting

Tuesdays, September 1 and 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, beginning September 1. All are welcome. Contact Kaki O'Flinn at kaki@stmarysoth.org for more information.

New "Hope and Healing" Group

Wednesdays, September 2 and 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 will meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month, beginning in September and continuing through November. Facilitated by Kaki O'Flinn and Caroline Adams.

EYC Kickoff!

Sunday, September 13 / 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!

Counting The Days – Rector's Bible Studies

The Men's Tuesday early-morning and Women's Wednesday mid-morning sessions will begin in the week of **September 14:**

- **Men:** Tuesday, the 15th, at 7:10 AM in Room 309
- **Women:** Wednesday, the 16th, at 10:10 AM in Randolph Memorial Hall

We will start by studying several psalms and their historical community role, including their part in temple worship, their link to King David, and our use 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.

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 the QR code.)**

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.

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

WEEKDAY MORNINGS / 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. **We will resume daily Morning Prayer on Tuesday, September 8 (the Tuesday after Labor Day).**

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.
-

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, Ricky, Larry, Tommy, Libba

For our families, friends, and neighbors:

Nancy, Lucy, Haley, Madison, Charles, Noah

For those who are grieving:

Family of Peyton Bibb, Family of Linda Martin Stewart, Family of Jim Nance, Family of
Billy Hiden

For those who experience ongoing challenges:

Patty, Judy, Patrick, Todd, Norma, Carley, Betty, Bart, 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*



ST. MARY'S
ON THE HIGHLANDS