

Christ Episcopal Church
Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

The Rev. Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge
Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place.

What do you need to know about worship? Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

Are you worshiping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com with your name and contact information, and let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

Newsletter: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

Do you need prayer? We have an active prayer ministry here at Christ Church. If prayer would be helpful to you, please fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew back), making sure you include your name and contact information (email and/or phone). We'll include you in our weekly prayers. Just complete the card & put it in the offering plate during the Offertory or share your request with the greeter.

We extend special thanks today to:

Victoria Fischer Faw for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

Marybeth Lentz for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Louise Law for the beautiful flowers at the altar in loving memory of her mother,
Helen Scheussler & Rod's mother, Mattie Jo Pace, and

Mary Lee Joines for providing our coffee hour refreshments.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too

Christ Episcopal Church

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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-1:00, Wednesday remote

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Cover art: Canticle of the Creatures by Francis of Assisi; Sr Jane Mary Sorosiak, OSF

The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Nancy Wilson

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee!

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant This is the day the Creator has made.

People **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise, hymn #376, vs 1

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and

brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *

for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *

or show forth all his praise?

Happy are those who act with justice *

and always do what is right!

Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *

and visit me with your saving help;

That I may see the prosperity of your elect

and be glad with the gladness of your people, *

that I may glory with your inheritance.

We have sinned as our forebears did; *

we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *

and worshiped a molten image;

And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,
Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The Second Reading: A reading from Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #481

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Kumbaya, My Lord

Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya

Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya

Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya

Oh Lord, kumbaya

Please remain standing, as able.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Kumbaya, my Lord (lyrics are above)

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand, as able.

The Iona Creed

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,
of male and female.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.

He descended into the earth
to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayers of the People

EOW, Creationtide Form, pg 176

Eternal God:

We thank you for the beauty of the World:
for the teeming life of the seas,
the flight of birds,
and the diversity of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care;
to protect endangered species,
to preserve the variety of habitats,
and to honor the delicate balance of nature.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the wealth
of blessings from land and sea;
for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun.

We pray for the nations of the earth,
give us the will to cherish this planet
and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all.

God of justice:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church,
called to reconcile and heal:
For this parish and The Rev Karla Woggon.

God of grace:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the human family.
We exult in our diversity and giftedness,
we repent of our sins, divisions and violence.
By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us.
As every human being is known and loved by you,
may we care for one another with love and respect.
We pray for those you have commended to our care, and
those on our prayer list. *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud.*

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died,
whom we entrust to your eternal love;
may we support and comfort those who mourn.

God of peace:

hear our prayer.

Silence

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our
relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our
mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share
the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent for what we have done to harm them, and for
what we have not done to help them.
Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another
and for all creatures, according to your will and in
the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our
Redeemer. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus
Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you
in eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling
work in the world.*

Please be seated.

Offertory Music

Victoria Fischer Faw

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I, EOW, pg 114

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *(sung by all)*

The Land of Rest tune

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest!*

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

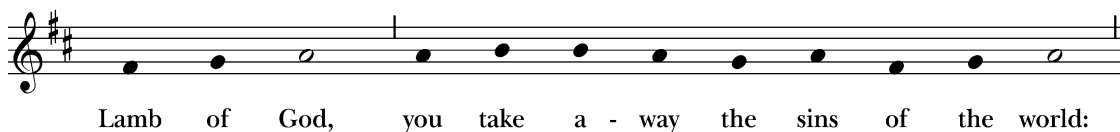
The Lord's Prayer

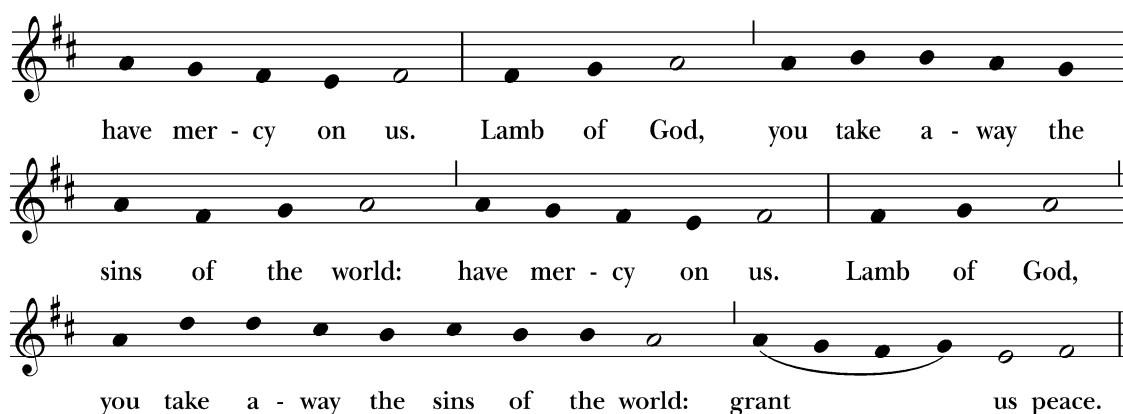
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S161 (*sung by all*)





Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Victoria Fischer Faw

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,

I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace,

I can hear the brush of angels' wings,

I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

EOW, pg 58

Celebrant Let us pray,

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with Spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The Rev Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #344

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

People Thanks be to God the Creator.

Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Brenda Weems, Caleb Padgett with his mother Alecia Padgett & her friend Brian Clothier, Cara Todd, Carol Greer & family, Chris, Debbie & Doug Bebber (Cynthia's friends), Denise Seckel, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donald & Audrey Carter (Denise & Larry's friend), Erin Mohr & her family, Geoff Jones & family, Janice & Ken Kleva, Jeff (community friend) & his wife Karen, Jerry & Theresa (Ann's friends), John & Diane (Judy's BIL & sister), John & Jane Gehring, Karen & Dick Dewald (Erin's parents), Langhorne Jones (Geoff's father), Liz Lee Williamson (Mary Lee's cousin), Martha Honaker (The Rev), Michael, Patricia Gaskin, Sally & Chuck Besaw, Sara Brown Davis, Tom Warndorf, and the Williams/Reid families.

Long-term prayers:

Antje & Bill, Buck Hunnicutt, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Coralie & her mother Mary, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin (Nancy's brother), Gary Medley & Allan Joyce, Gwen (Ann), Inza & Blair, Isabel, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Linda/Cindy/Trent, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Raymond Hindman, Rita Woodruff, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), and Vanita.

Departed:

Birthdays: Keel Davis (Oct 12), Tonya Todd (Oct 12)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Bob & Patty Mininni (Oct 12)

Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, Presiding Bishop, our Bishop Search Committee, and Karla, our Priest-in-Charge

In the Anglican Community: the Anglican Church of Burundi

In the Diocese of WNC: all Indigenous People and for the care of God's creation

In Alleghany County: New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Marybeth Lentz
Chalice Bearer	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green
Lector I	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Lector II	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Prayers of the People	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Greeter/Usher(s)	Nancy Wilson	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

Schedule

Sunday, October 11 – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

2:00 pm – ~~Blessing of the Animals~~ service in the lower lot

Tuesday, October 13

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, October 18 – The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, October 19

11:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, October 20

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

3:15 pm – Outreach meeting

Sunday, October 25 – The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00 – 1:00 – ~~Living & Dying Well~~ with The Rev Karla Woggon

Monday, October 26

10:00 am – 25th Anniversary Planning Team meeting

12:00 pm – 2027 Budget Prep meeting

Tuesday, October 27

1:00 – 4:00 pm – *Follow-up class on the Enneagram & Spirituality led by Julie Smith*

Announcements

TODAY Sunday, October 11th at 2:00 pm: Blessing of the Animals will be held in the lower parking lot of Christ Church. We encourage all who would like their pet to be blessed to arrive before 2:00 pm and make sure you have control of them at all times. If your animal friend is *not able* to be around other animals, let us know and stay with your animal in your vehicle.

Pledge cards were mailed out at the end of last week. Please contact Mary Lee if you *did not* receive yours or if you have questions.

“You are Safe with Me” pins are decorated with rainbow colors, and are sitting on the table in the narthex. The local suicide prevention group donated them for those willing to wear them as an indication they will listen confidentially, especially to LGBTQ+ youth. *For more information, read the GNN.* **Please feel free to take one.**

Julie Smith, the Enneagram Teacher who was with us in August, is coming back to lead a follow up class. She will meet with us on **Tuesday, Oct 27th from 1:00-4:00 pm** to explore spirituality and the enneagram. The Centering Prayer group has been reading the *Enneagram of the Soul* which also teaches about how to grow in our understanding of God in our lives through the enneagram. If you're interested in attending, please let Patti Phelps or Mary Lee know. **ALL are WELCOME!**

REMINDER: If you have any Christ Church memorabilia (old photos, newsletters, etc), **please bring it to the Parish Hall and drop it off in the marked area.** The 25th Anniversary Planning Team are working to gather important items for display and to share.

Living & Dying Well – Sunday, Oct 25 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm The third session will include practical handouts for planning your funeral and making sure your family has all the documents they need. We hope you'll join us. This is a gentle, thoughtful space to reflect on mortality, care for loved ones, and hope. Led by The Rev Karla Woggon.

The Centering Prayer/Book Discussion groups continue on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm The Centering Prayer group will use *The Enneagram of the Soul* by Nhien Vuong to continue learning more about the enneagram. If you have any questions, contact Patti Phelps at frankandpatti@yahoo.com. All are welcome to join either or both groups.

If you have a pastoral need or would like home communion or a visit when you are sick or homebound, please contact Karla at priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com or 828.638.0533.

The Prayer Shawls & Lap Blankets are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

We take an offering for the Solid Rock Food Closet the first Sunday of each month. If you'd like to give, make sure you write 'SRFC' or 'food closet' on your check or offering envelope. Another way to give is with a donation of non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, paper products, and/or personal care products. Just bring those items and leave them in the red wagon in the narthex. Wanda will make sure they get to the food closet. Periodically, the food closet will share a list of what they need most. **There's a mini shopping list in the red wagon.** *A new notice from the food closet asks that we double-check expiration dates because they cannot accept expired items.*

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
Oct 11	Louise Law	Marybeth Lentz	Mary Lee Joines
Oct 18	Doris King	Rod Pace	
Oct 25		Marybeth Lentz	Barbara Halsey
Nov 1		Cynthia Grant	

Blessing of the Animals TODAY

Sunday, October 11 at 2:00 pm



We will be having our annual **Blessing of the Animals service TODAY, Sunday, Oct 11 at 2:00 pm** in the **lower parking lot**.

We ask that you maintain control of your pet at all times. Dogs need to be on a leash.

Not all animals are comfortable around other animals and/or people. If you have a beloved pet that falls into that category or one that might be frightening to others, please let us know, stay in your car and the priest will come to you.