

Announcements

12 July 2026

Welcome! We welcome back the Rev. Chris Humphrey, who preaches and presides this morning. Our musician is Sally Page.

Spotlight on Hymnody: We sing Hymn 48 this morning, and its tune is named “ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN”—boy, that’s a mouthful! It means “There flew a little woodbird,” which was the opening line of the secular poem for which the music was originally composed. The original hymn text contained some theological confusion—or at least our Standing Committee on Church Music thought so, confusing the day of resurrection (the first day of the week) with the sabbath (the seventh day). As a result, they changed “O day of rest and gladness” to “O day of radiant gladness”—words that we sing today.

Who Knew? *Here’s a prayer for peace among the nations:* Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (From the *Book of Common Prayer*, p.816.) Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; peace be within her walls! Pray also for Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and anywhere suffering warfare.

We’re almost there! With the help of a grant from our diocese and discovering that priest LaRae Rutenbar is available through December, we are on track to celebrate the Holy Eucharist every Sunday for now. We still have three lay persons trained to lead Morning Prayer as a fall-back position, but it looks as if we may be able to taste and see the real presence of Christ every Sunday through the end of the year!

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The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates, Priest-in-Charge

A Word about Hymn Choices

As we continue to grow together as priest and people, it is perhaps a good time to explain my method for choosing hymns. First, though, I need to say that there is no reason we need to sing *any* hymns, let alone four of them at every service. So, I’m looking at ways we can reduce the total number of hymns, including the singing of an Alleluia before the gospel proclamation. I have also asked Sal to play through a hymn in its entirety before we begin to sing it if it isn’t familiar to us. This should help us become familiar with the tune, and it will also give us some time to open the hymnal to the right page.

As to hymn choices, I take advantage of a little out-of-print tome called *A Liturgical Index to the Hymnal 1982* by Marjon J. Hatchett. He taught liturgics for many years at the seminary at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He also published a concordance to the Book of Common Prayer (remember, this was before you could do an online search for every instance of the word “love” in the prayer book), as well as several other liturgical reference books.

Hatchett—or, more likely, his graduate students—worked through the texts of the hymnal and those of the Common Lectionary, which specified the propers (the collect and the Scripture lessons appointed for a given occasion). He then groups hymns by their appropriate use within a service (entrance, sequence, offertory, communion, or post-communion), and indicates whether the hymn resonates with the collect, first lesson, psalm, epistle, gospel, or the liturgical season more generally. For most Sundays, for instance, he recommends about twenty hymns!

I then go through with my hymnal and choose what seem to me to be the most appropriate for our congregation (that is: simple, foursquare, singable, and hopefully short). Remember that years ago I used to sing in the chorus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra—so my idea of what is “singable” may be more generous than yours. Now that we’re in the long green season, I’ll be sure to sprinkle in some of the golden oldies from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* and *Wonder, Love, and Praise*. Those were published after Hatchett’s volume, so he doesn’t make recommendations from it.

If you find a particular hymn egregious, by all means let me know. I’m not here every Sunday, so I won’t know otherwise. I’ll add it to a list of banned hymns, and we’ll never hear of it again!

—Father Barrie