

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Simsbury, CT
Celebrate. Inspire. Serve.



Welcome to St. Alban's!

Your prayers and presence today are a gift to this community. We are grateful that you are here. We pray that you feel the love of Christ, the holy stirring of the Spirit, and God's presence here this morning.

Worship

Everything you need to worship can be found in this bulletin and in your own heart. We may follow traditional times when we sit or stand or kneel, and it's all optional. Please feel free to speak, sing and move in ways that draw you into joyful life with each other and God. If you need help finding the bathrooms, a changing table, or the water fountain, please ask an Usher.

Children

Children of all ages are welcome. Wiggles, noises, wandering, cries and conversation are the stuff of the Holy Spirit and enhance the joy of our time together. We also have special space where our children like to hang out. We call it the Playground and it's in the rear balcony. Please feel free to hang out there, or bring stuff to your seats.

Communion

Sharing in the bread and wine is the heart of our Sunday service. Please join in the feast (or just come forward for a blessing)! Ask if you would like gluten-free bread. If you want healing prayer, please see Pastor Stephen after the service.

Learning More

Ask one of us! And fill out a "Welcome" card, so we can stay in touch. They're on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary, or ask an usher. You can also visit our website or find us on Facebook. Please always feel free to contact Pastor Stephen if you have any questions or needs. See back page for all our contact info.

Donating

During our service today, Ushers will pass offering plates for your monetary gifts. On 2nd Sundays, the cash donations will go to the rector's discretionary fund, which is used to support urgent needs of parishioners and the wider community. We also invite your donations through our website (stalbanssimsbury.org, click "Donate").

Cover art: *The one with the crumby dog*, ©2017 Ally Barrett, used by permission. The artist, an Anglican priest, says this about the Canaanite woman: "She is a woman. She is foreign. She has a disabled/sick child. And she shouts. She's a reject in pretty much every way. And she's awesome." Rev. Barrett has more info on this work here: <https://reverendally.org/2017/10/03/the-one-with-the-crumby-dog/>.

Welcome

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

Let us build a house/ All are welcome

GTG 301

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be -
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their

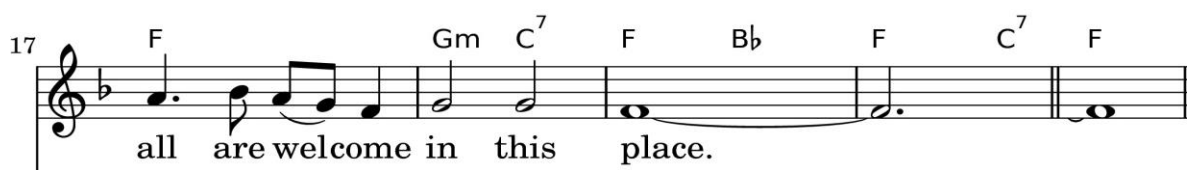
all can safe - ly live, a place where saints and
 words are strong and true, where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone to heal and strength-en,
 songs and vi - sions heard and loved and trea-sured,

chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek to dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, and live the Word they've
 taught and claimed as words with - in the

give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi-sions, rock of
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit-ness and as
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re-
 known. Here the out - cast and the strang-er bear the
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh-ter, prayers of

faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall
 sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we claim the
 vealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the
 im - age of God's face; let us bring an end to
 faith and songs of grace; let this house pro-claim from

end di - vi - sions:
 faith of Je - sus:



Opening Prayer

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

The Gloria

S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the book of Isaiah (56:1, 6-8)

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
 for soon my salvation will come,
 and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
 to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
 and to be his servants,
 all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
 and hold fast my covenant—
 these I will bring to my holy mountain,
 and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
 their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
 will be accepted on my altar;
 for my house shall be called a house of prayer

for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans (11:1-2a, 29-32)

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry;
 2. Let me at thy throne of mer - cy Find a sweet re - lief;
 3. Trust - ing on - ly in thy mer - it, Would I seek thy face;
 4. Thou the spring of all my com - fort, More than life to me,

1. While on oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.
 2. Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, Help my un - be - lief.
 3. Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spi - rit, Save me by thy grace.
 4. Whom have I on earth be - side thee? Whom in heav'n but thee?

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry;

While on oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.

The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (15:10-28)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds

from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Stephen Nagy, Rector

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

The Canaanite woman pressed upon Jesus her needs and was heard. With expectant faith, we place before you O Lord our earnest petitions for ourselves and our world, saying: Lord, have mercy on us.

For the healing of a needy world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, we pray to you. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

For the churches and their leaders, that they may be willing to be made new by your Spirit working among foreigners and outcasts, we call out to you. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

For the healing of the earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to be stewards of your good creation, we pray to you. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

For all of us here present, for those whose faith is known to God alone, and for those intentions we hold deep in our hearts, we call out to you. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

For the aged and infirm, for those troubled by demons of mind and body, for those who helplessly watch others suffer, we call out to you. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

For those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially Bob, Chris, Kathy, Margi, Mary Lou, Miriam, Meredith H., Tom M., T.J., Gilbert III, Christina, Amanda, Christena and family, and all those we name silently or aloud; for the dying victims of incurable disease, for those changed by depressions, fear, and addiction, and for those who minister to them, we pray to you: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, we pray to you. **Lord, have mercy on us.**

In the communion with Alban and all the saints, we commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant

O Lord, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will,
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 And also with you.

Announcements

*The mission and ministry of St. Alban's depends on the generosity of our congregation and community. We welcome your donation of cash or checks in the offering plate;
 or use the QR code on the cards available from an usher.
 We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.*

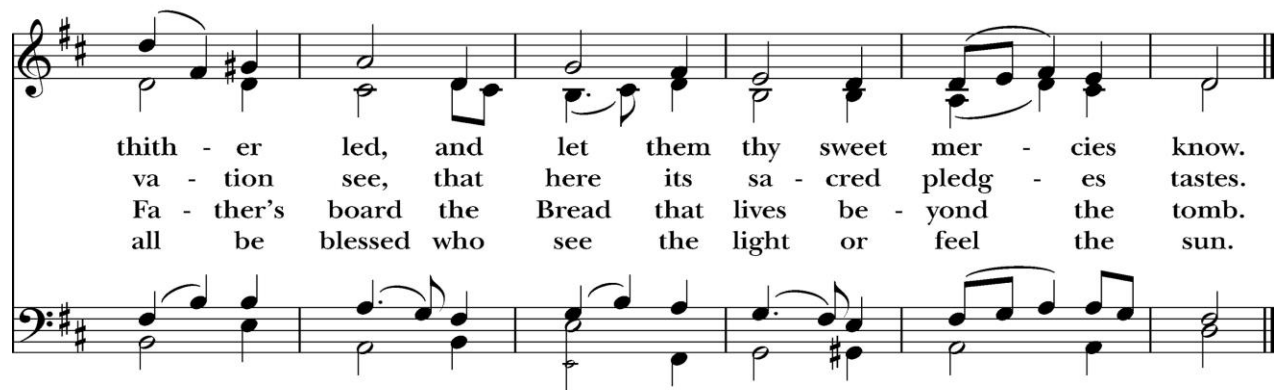
Offertory Hymn

My God, thy table now is spread

H82 321

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
 3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless
 4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall



The gifts are lifted up at the table. Then may be said:

All things come from thee, Creator God.

And of thine own have we given thee.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

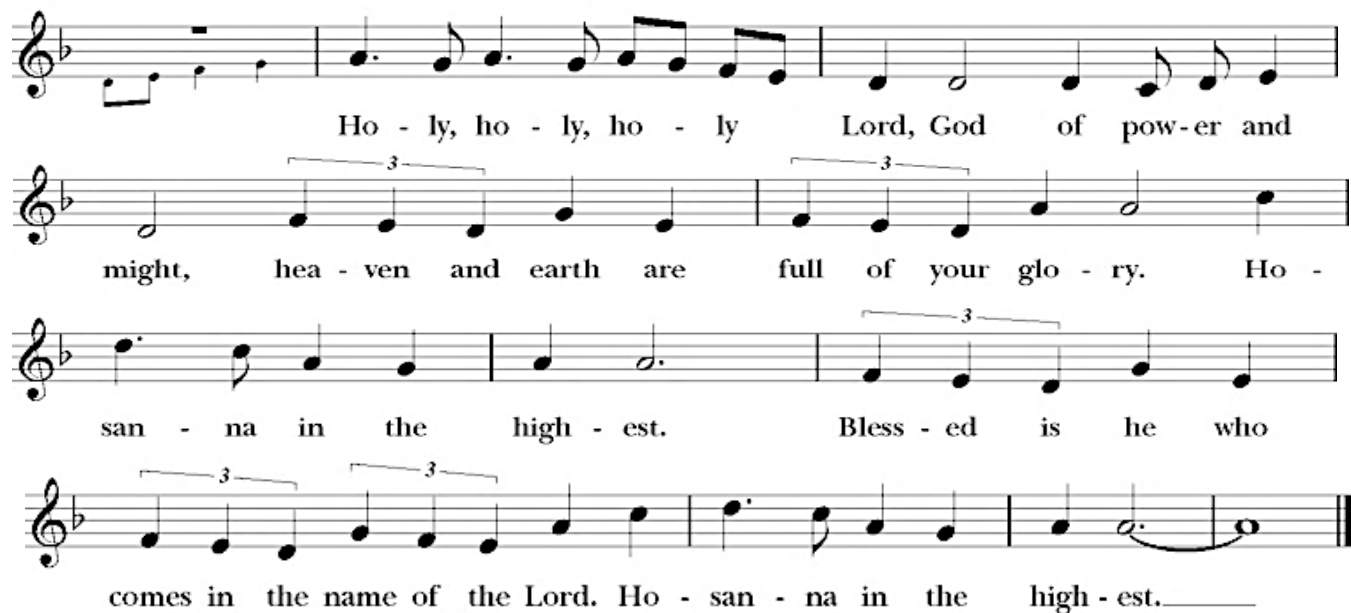
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

S129



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Alban and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.
Then may be said:*

**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Communion

*You are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion.
No one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away.*

*Stand or kneel in a semi-circle around the holy table in whatever way is comfortable for you.
The sacrament is offered as bread (ask for gluten free) and/or wine. If you need the
sacrament brought to you, please let us know and we will be honored to do so.*

To receive a blessing instead, let us know by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Anthem

instrumental

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Almighty and ever living God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of the mind;



there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is wel-come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;



there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Andrew King, Pianist

Thank You to Our Ministers Today

Musician: Andrew King

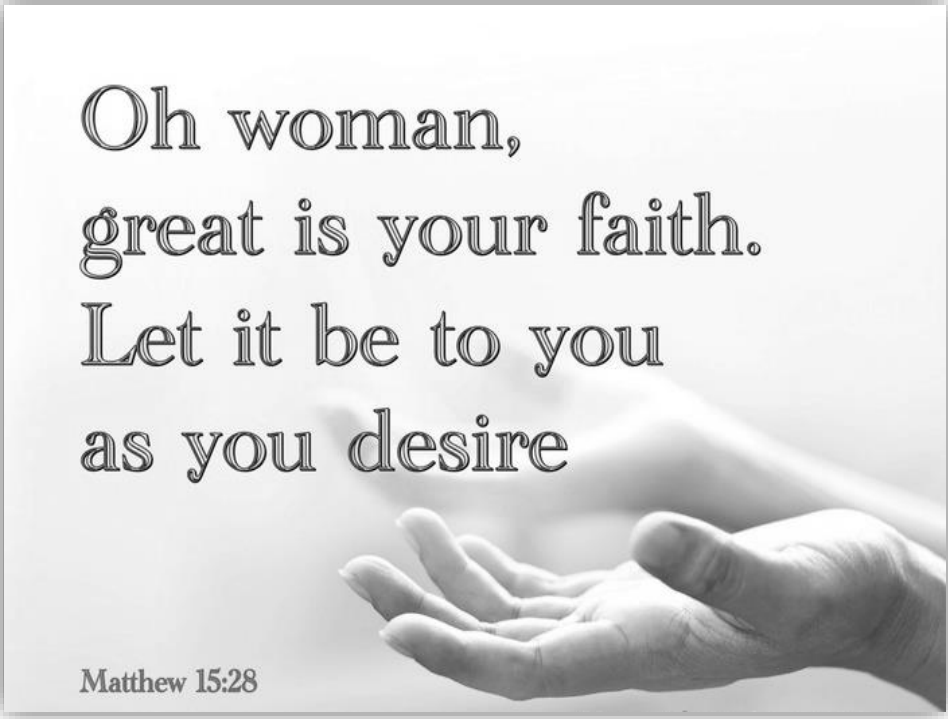
Usher: Ann Hall

Readers: Steve McGrath, Mike Bailey, Jeannie Crabtree

Acolyte: Kathleen Canzano

Tech: Bryan Adams

Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden



Oh woman,
great is your faith.
Let it be to you
as you desire

Matthew 15:28