

CHRIST CHURCH

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

"Growing by God's Grace as a Family of Faith, Fellowship, and Ministry"



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 | 10:30AM

*"We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus
as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually."*

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church gladly welcomes all people. Our clergy, staff, and parishioners are delighted to assist you in learning more about our worship and our community. Restrooms are located in the Parish House to the left of the church. Ushers are available to assist you as needed. If this is your first time visiting with us today, please complete a visitor card (*located in the pew*) and place it in the offering plate. Clipboards containing materials for children are available in the Narthex.

Nursery care is provided next door in the Parish House; however, all children are welcome in our services.

Christ Church is an active and vibrant parish in the heart of Downtown Macon since its founding in 1825. We are a forward-looking parish that values our heritage, liturgy, and outreach to the greater community. To learn more please visit us online via our website at www.christchurchmacon.com. The Parish Office is open from 9a–4p Monday through Thursday. You can reach us by calling (478) 745-0427.

We Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ Church welcomes all people and no matter where you are on your faith journey, you have a place here. We hope to see you soon.

UPCOMING SERVICES

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13
8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

Holy Eucharist at Carlyle Place

Thursday, September 17
10:30 am in the Lower Level Activity Room

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20
8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

Compline

Sunday, September 20
6:30 pm in the Church

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 27
8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

Compline

Sunday, September 27
6:30 pm in the Church

Holy Eucharist & Healing

Every Wednesday
Noon in the Church

Compline

Every Wednesday
8:45 pm on Facebook

THE ENTRANCE RITE

OPENING VOLUNTARY: *Pastorale*

Eric H. Thiman (1900–1975)

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Father, we praise thee, now that night is over

Hymnal, 1

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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

Hymnal, S 280

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

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.

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The People sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7–11

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my

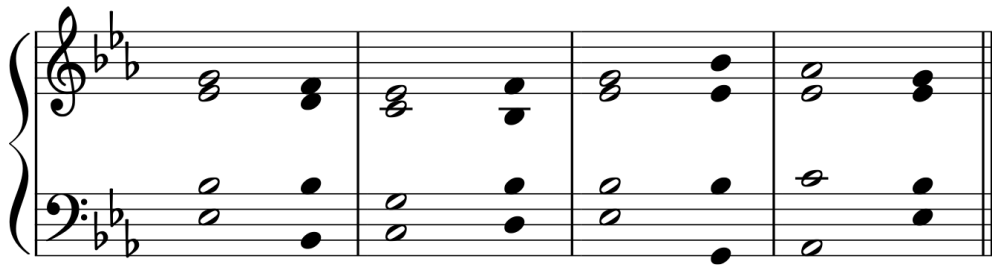
mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the LORD God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL

Psalm 119:33–40



- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your / statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the / end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your / law; *
I shall keep it with all my / heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your com/mandments, *
for that is my de/sire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your de/crees *
and not to unjust / gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is / worthless; *
give me life in your / ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your / servant, *
which you make to those who / fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I/ dread, *
because your judgments are / good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your com/mandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my / life.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 13:8–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE: Where charity and love prevail

Hymnal, 581

The People remain standing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15–20

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

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.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People sit.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Harriette Simmons

The People stand.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 358

The People kneel.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Form I

BCP, p. 383

Intercessor: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all peoples. Please add your own prayers of praise and
thanksgiving.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority,
especially those serving in the military: Alivia, Austin, Cameron, Donald,
Georgia, Joe, Lorraine, Sam, and Theodore.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to
conserve it.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and
the suffering, especially those on our Parish Prayer list: Al, Angie, Bailey,
Becca, Bill, Bob, Brenda, Catherine, Claire, Dan, Dave, Dennis, Ed, Eleanor,
Elizabeth, Ellen, George, Gibson, Gracie Marie, Griffin, Helen, Jaime, JB,
John, Kay, Kristie, Lee, Leslie, Libby, Lillian, Lisa, Lowe, Margaret, Martha,
Matthew, Nancy, Pat, Patricia, Pete, Phil, Pud, Rodney, Sammy, Tommy,
Trisha, William, and Wright.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. We remember this day Marie Wilson and James Anderson Wilson, for whom the altar flowers are given in loving memory and to the glory of God.

Silence may be kept.

Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant will conclude with a suitable Collect

The People remain kneeling.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SIN

BCP, p. 360

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

The People stand.

THE PEACE

The People sit.

WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

We come together as the Body of Christ, we partake in the Body of Christ, to go out into the world to be the Body of Christ. All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you do not wish to partake, you are invited to receive a blessing by crossing your arms at the altar rail. If you are unable to come to the altar, please notify an usher and the elements will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would like to receive prayer for healing, please remain at the rail after receiving Communion with your hands in an attitude of prayer and our prayer ministers will pray with you and anoint you with oil for healing.

THE OFFERTORY

The People stand.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY: “O Brother Man”

Eric Thiman (1900–1975)

*O brother man! fold to thy heart thy brother
Where pity dwells the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each Smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.*

*Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him whose holy work was “doing good”;
So shall the wide earth seem our father’s temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.*

*Then Shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour
Of wild war music o’er the earth shall cease;
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace!*

— John Greenleaf Whittier

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION: Praise God from whom all blessing flow

Hymnal, 380 v. 3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal, S 125

The People kneel.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BCP, p. 362

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

BCP, p. 363

THE GREAT AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM: Christ our passover

Hymnal, S 155

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

During Communion, please observe a holy and respectful silence to allow for private prayer.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray

Hymnal, 315

The People kneel.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 365

THE BLESSING

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymnal, 376

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: *Postlude on 'Hymn to Joy'*

Gordon Young (1919–1998)

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

CELEBRANT & GOSPELER

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

PREACHER

The Rev. Harriette Simmons

VERGER

Harry Groce

FLOWER GUILD

Jan Beeland

ACOLYTES

Ella Stewart *crucifer*

Caroline Stewart, *clergy cross*

Charlie Stewart, *torch*

Avery Svare, *torch*

HEALING PRAYER MINISTER

Katy Tosh

USHERS & GREETERS

Samuel Adams

Jonathan & Liz Hill

Jake & Mary Elizabeth Master

Greg & Susie Sutton

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Walker Stewart

Donna Hutchins

VESTRY WELCOMER

Jed Hill

ALTAR GUILD

Karen Baxley

Peggy Puryear

AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNICIAN

Tim Hoskins

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Parish Office Hours | Monday—Thursday 9am–12pm & 1pm–4pm | Closed Friday

Sunday, September 6: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken) — *Church*
- 9:30 am Christ Church Choir — *Church*
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (With music) — *Church*
Lemonade on the Lawn — *Cloister Garden*
- 11:30 am Weekend Lunch — *Jones Chapel*

Monday, September 7

Parish office is closed for Labor Day

Wednesday, September 9

- 9 am Women's Bible Study — *Parlor*
- 10:45 am Wise Women's Bible Study — *Cloister Room*
- 12 pm Holy Eucharist & Healing — *Church*
- 6 pm Alpha Marriage Course — *Great Hall*
- 8:45 pm Compline — *Facebook*

Thursday, September 10

- 7:10 am Men's Bible Study — *Cloister Room*
- 6 pm Christ Church Choir — *Choir Room*

Friday, September 11

Parish office is closed

Saturday, September 12

- 11:30 am Weekend Lunch — *Jones Chapel*

Sunday, September 13: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken) — *Church*
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School — *Parish House*
- 9:30 am Youth Sunday School — *Youth Suite*
- 9:30 am Adult Discussion of Sunday's Scriptures — *Great Hall*
- 9:30 am Bishop's Podcast Discussion Group — *Parlor*
- 9:30 am Christ Church Choir — *Church*
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (With music) — *Church*
Lemonade on the Lawn — *Cloister Garden*
- 11:30 am Weekend Lunch — *Jones Chapel*
- 4:00 pm Parish Picnic — *Home of Blair & Brad Sumrall*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please send announcements to communications@christchurchmacon.com)

Labor Day Weekend Schedule

We will not have Sunday school or Sunday evening activities today due to the Labor Day weekend. The parish office will be closed tomorrow for Labor Day. Next Sunday, September 13, we will have Sunday school, but will not have our regular Sunday evening activities at the church and will instead meet at the Sumralls' house for the parish picnic at starting at 4 pm.

Alpha Marriage Course Beginning This Week

Wednesdays at 6 pm, September 9 – October 21

We are offering the Alpha Marriage Course for anyone who would like to strengthen their relationship. Facilitated by Jamie and Ben Walden, this course is an opportunity for a “date night” while you work together on your marriage. Each couple will have their own table for two where they will be served dinner while they watch the talk. Throughout the talk there are periods for each couple to have private conversations between themselves using their course workbook as a guide.

This course will be on Wednesday evenings beginning this Wednesday, September 9th and going through October 21st. The evening will take 2 hours and we are planning to begin at 6:00. To learn more or to sign up please email Cynthia@christchurchmacon.com.

Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 13 from 4 pm to 7 pm

Even though it's still hot outside, fall is right around the corner and that means it's time for the parish picnic! This year's picnic will be held on Sunday, September 13 starting at 4 pm. The Sumralls will be hosting at their home at 865 Fieldstone Drive. The picnic is always one of the highlights of the year and an excellent chance to connect with and get to know new people, so be sure to mark your calendars. There will be some tables and chairs there, however you may want to bring folding chairs and/or picnic blankets for your family.

The church will provide fried chicken. If your last name begins with A–I, bring a side dish. J–R, bring a fruit, vegetable, or salad. S–Z bring a dessert.



Safeguarding God's Children Training

Sunday, September 20 after the 10:30 am service

An up-to-date Safeguarding God's Children certification is required for all clergy, staff, vestry members, Sunday school teachers, and volunteers aged 16 or older who work with children or youth. Once completed, a Safeguarding certification is valid for three years before needing to be renewed. An online version of this class is available at SafeChurchAtlanta.org/Training. For those who would like to complete the training in-person, there will be a training in the Cloister Room on Sunday, September 20 following the end of the 10:30a service. Please email Rachel Horkan (Rachel@ChristChurchMacon.com) or Hope Westervelt (Hope@ChristChurchMacon.com) for more details or to register. Lunch is included for all participants.

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 3 at 10:30a

St. Francis of Assisi was one of the most popular medieval saints, known for his humility, care for the poor, and love of the natural world. Each year, we celebrate his feast in early October by gathering to bless and give thanks for our non-human companions and all the other blessings of the created world that God has given us. Bring your pets to the Memorial Garden at 10:30a on Saturday, October 3, for a short service and blessing. There will be treat bags and collar medallions for all the furry attendees!

Service with a Saint

Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 am

On Sunday, October 4, 2026, in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have a service project in the Great Hall during the Sunday school hour starting at 9:30 am. St. Francis was famous for his love and care for the poor and hungry. We will honor his example by making sandwiches to fill the community refrigerator at Centenary Methodist Church.

We are collecting donations of sandwich materials for the project. We need bread, peanut butter, and jelly. Bring them by the parish office during the week or to the parish house on Sunday morning. And be sure to bring yourself on October 4. There will be opportunities to help for all ages. Rumor has it that St. Francis himself will stop by to tell us about his life.



Choral Evensong

Sunday, October 4 at 6:30 pm

The choir will be presenting their first Choral Evensong of the program year on Sunday, October 4 at 6:30 pm. This will conclude that day's Sunday Evenings at Christ Church in place of the Compline service. Evensong is a beautiful part of the Anglican worship tradition that pairs choral music with the liturgy of the Evening Prayer service.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER



Empowering Haitians Through Education

Haitian Hope is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that, since 2004, has partnered with Saint Marc Episcopal School in the small mountain village of Trouin in the southwestern peninsula of Haiti.

On behalf of everyone in Haitian Hope, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support over the past year. Thanks to your donations, we have been able to continue providing essential resources, educational opportunities, and hope to a community in need.

As we start the 2026 - 2027 School Term we face the challenge of raising \$120,000 to continue our existing classes at St. Marc and the University Scholarship Program. Fortunately, a generous donor has offered to match donations received during August and September. A life-line to give us hope for success in the year ahead.

A gift of \$50 becomes \$100.

A gift of \$250 becomes \$500.

**Whatever amount you choose,
your generosity will have twice the impact.**

We deeply appreciate your trust and your willingness to stand with us during these challenging times and look forward to keeping you updated on classes at St. Marc's.

The previous school term concluded with a Solar Class that serves both students at St. Marc and the community of Trouin, Haiti.

Thank you once again for your kindness and for believing in the potential of the Haitian people.

With sincere appreciation,

Marcia Aldridge, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Haitian Hope

BOSTON BUTT SALE

Delicious Boston Butts smoked by Fincher's BBQ and flavored with the famous Haitian Hope Rub.

Butts \$50 each

Pick up at St. Paul's Oct. 15-17

To order, contact:

Irene Marxsen: 478-319-4220
David Cline: 478-244-0693
Elizabeth Benjamin: 478-390-8266



Solar Power Class July 2026

There is no electrical power in Trouin. Solar power can provide a light at night, charge a cell phone, or power a radio.

St. Marc School provides a Solar Power Class each year for students who have attended the electrical power class and people of the community.

Solar Class starts in the classroom and continues with cleaning and learning about the solar panels.



The students also learn what devices are needed to control how the electrical current from the panels is used to charge a battery, convert the solar panel electrical current from DC to AC, and how to safely connect an electrical device.

**Donate online by
scanning the QR code
or mail checks to:**

**Haitian Hope, Inc.
P.O. Box 4005
Macon, GA 31208
www.haitian-hope.org
Facebook:
HaitianHopeTrouin**



VESTRY

Jed Hill, *Senior Warden*
Rob Wilkin, *Junior Warden*
Steve Welsh, *Treasurer*
Chris Hair, *Clerk*

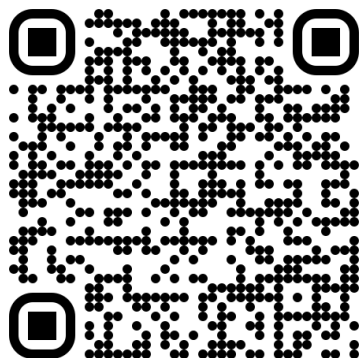
William Baxley
Jan Beeland
Margaret Boltja
Christine Hoskins

Keri Jones
Molly Muse
Jeff Powers
Nancy Wilkerson

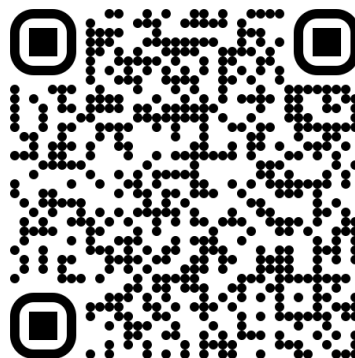
CLERGY & STAFF

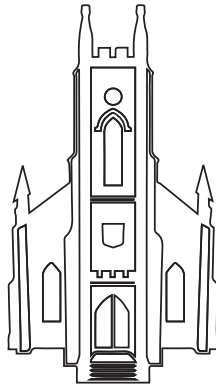
The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, *Bishop of Atlanta*
The Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp, *Rector*
The Rev. Harriette J. Simmons, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Dr. John F. McCard, *Priest Associate*
Hope Westervelt, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Rachel Horkan, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Jonathan A. Poe, *Director of Music & Liturgy*
Lacey Chaney, *Associate for Children's Music*
Nidia Svare *Parish Administrator*
Timothy Hoskins, *Director of Communications*
Laurel Eady, *Parish Bookkeeper*
Hal Brickle, *Director of Weekend Lunch Ministry*
Robert Hubbard, *Sexton*
Markisha Carter, *Assistant Sexton*

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Fill out a visitor card:





CHRIST
CHURCH
EPISCOPAL