

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

1251 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, California 93010

(805) 482-8831 www.stcolumbaca.com

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

Brett Hanley, music director



Tapestry of Saints, John Nava, artist; <https://olacathedral.org/photoalbums/south-tapestries-gallery>

All Saints Sunday
November 3, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

THE WORD OF GOD

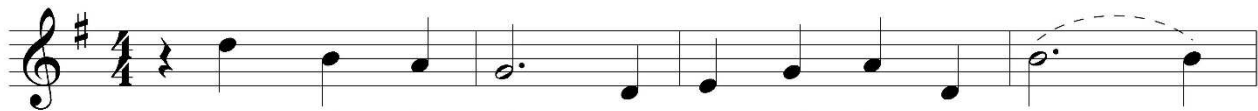
Prelude – “I Believe in God Almighty” (Gaelic melody) – Brett Hanley, organ

Welcome – The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson

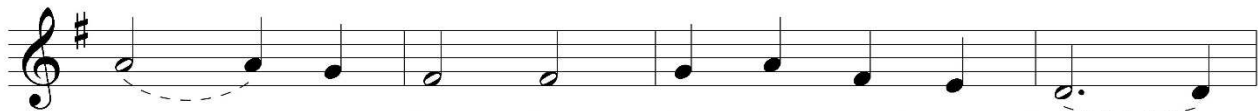
Welcoming Prayer

C: Holy Spirit living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us at St. Columba’s. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone who crosses our threshold feels welcomed in the warmth of your love. Amen.

Opening Hymn – # 287 – “For All the Saints” – Verse 1-4, 7-8



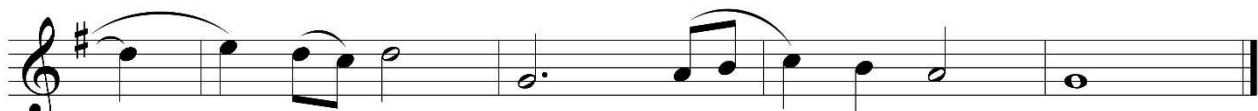
1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
7. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day; the
8. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet
saints triumphantly rise in bright array; the
gates of pearl streams in the countless host,



Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Al -
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light.
all are one in thee, for all are thine.
King of glory passes on his way.
sing - ing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,



- - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897).

Music: *Sine Nomine* (10 10 10 with Alleluias), Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958),

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

P: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

C: **Glory to God forever and ever.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise – “Glory to God” (Powell)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - 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 -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson – Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord*
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
"The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle."
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 "Who is he, this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

Second Lesson – Revelation 21:1-6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

L: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gradual Hymn – # 689 (WOV) – “Rejoice in God’s Saints”

1 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!
 2 Some march with e - vents to turn them God's way;
 3 Re - joice in those saints, un - praised and un - known,
 4 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!

A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.
 some need to with - draw, the bet - ter to pray;
 who bear some - one's cross, or shoul - der their own:
 A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.

Their faith in ac - quir - ing the hab - it of prayer,
 some car - ry the gos - pel through fire and through flood:
 they share our com - plain - ing, our com - forts, our cares:
 In lov - ing, in liv - ing, they prove it is true:

their depth of a - dor - ing, Lord, help us to share.
 our world is their par - ish, their pur - pose is God.
 what pa - tience in car - ing, what cour - age is theirs!
 their way of self - giv - ing, Lord, leads us to you.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: LAUDATE DOMINUM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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Gospel – John 11:32-44

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

C: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily – The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson

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.**

Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively.

LEM: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

C: That we all may be one.

LEM: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

C: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

LEM: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for our Bishops **Justin** (Archbishop of Canterbury), **Sean** (Presiding Bishop), and **John**; for our Clergy, Staff, and Vestry; and for all ministers and people;

C: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

LEM: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; for those who serve our country and the world;

C: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

LEM: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

C: That our works may find favor in your sight.

LEM: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; we pray especially for Millie, Justin, Jerry, John, Ann, Wendie, Robb, Heather, Bruce, Keli, Jack, Chris, Gail, Cameron, Jenée, Maggie, Eileen, Declan, John, Emily, Alison, John, Linda, Mary, Lisa, and Ivan.

C: That they may be delivered from their distress.

LEM: Give to the departed eternal rest.

C: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

LEM: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

C: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

LEM: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence may be kept.

[The people may add their own petitions.]

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

P: O God of resurrection and new life, take away the stones that entomb us and darken our lives, and fill us with the power and peace of your eternal life, that we may see your glory and live in your light, through Jesus Christ the Risen One, in the power of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

(Our Prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer, Form III, and by David Adam, Traces of Glory: Prayers for the Church Year.)

Confession and Absolution

LEM: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**ALL: 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.**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C: And also with you.

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your *servants* as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Anthem – “Angels and the Saints” (traditional, arranged E. Campbell)

Presentation Hymn – # 293 – “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

1. I sing a song of the saints of God, _____
2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and _____
3. They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are

pa - tient and brave and true, who _____ toiled and _____ fought and _____
his love _____ made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for _____
hund - reds of thou - sands still, the _____ world is _____ bright with the

lived and died for the Lord they _____ loved and knew. And _____
Je - sus' sake, the _____ whole of their good lives long. And _____
joy - ous saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can

one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and _____
one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and _____
meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in _____

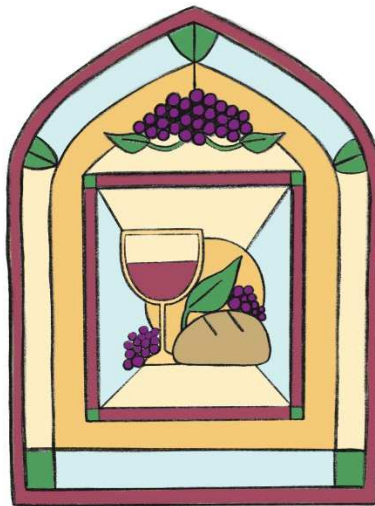
one was a shep-herd-ess on the green: they were all of them saints of —
 one was — slain by a fierce wild beast: and there's not an - y rea - son —
 church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of — God are just

God— and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.
 folk like — me, and I mean to be one too.

Words: Lesbia Scott, 1898-1986.

Music: GRAND ISLE (Irr.), John Henry Hopkins, 1861-1945.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer A from *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 361)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

[Here a proper preface is sung or said.]

P: 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Robert Powell, 1932-

The people stand or kneel.

P: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

C: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

C: **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.**



*“Give
us this day our
daily bread.”*

Fraction Anthem

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -
deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my
flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My
flesh is food in-deed, and my blood is drink in-deed, says the Lord.

Setting: Ray W. Urwin.

The Invitation

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to come forward to the two stations for Communion at the direction of the ushers. Receive the wine by drinking from the chalice as it is offered to you, or by retaining the wafer, and a Lay Eucharistic Minister will dip it in the wine and place it back in your hand. If you are not receiving, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing. If you are unable to physically come to the rail, please indicate to an usher that you would like to receive Communion at your seat.

Post-Communion Prayer

C: Almighty and everliving 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.

Blessing

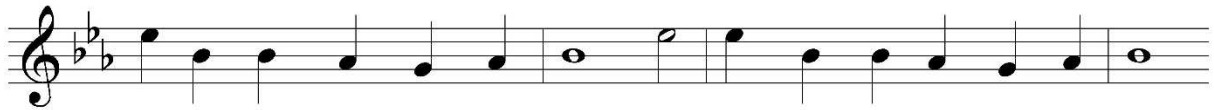
Closing Hymn – # 618 – “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”



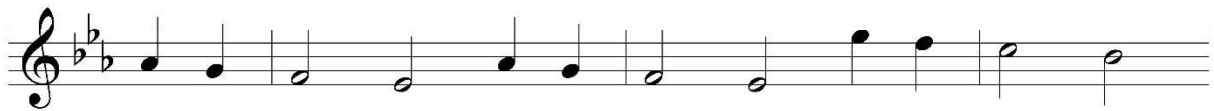
1. Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser - a - phs, cher - u -
2. O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the
3. Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye pa - tri - archs and
4. O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su - per - nal an - thems



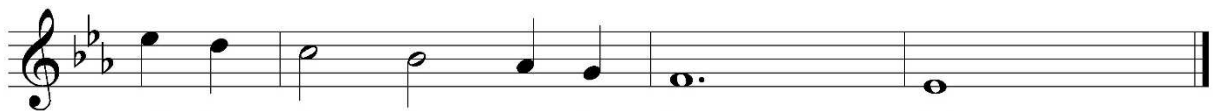
bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry
ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou
pro - phets blest, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ye
ech - o - ing, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! To



out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, pow'rs, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels' choirs,
bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord,
ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs strong, all saints tri - um - pha raise the song,
God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: John Athelstan Laurie Riley, 1858-1945.
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (88. 44. 88 with Refrain),
from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623;
adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – “When the Saints Go Marching In” (spiritual) – Brett Hanley, organ

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Thank you for your continued support of St. Columba's Episcopal Church (www.stcolumbaca.com). Your financial donations help us to continue our ministries. Thanks for all you do in helping St. Columba's to be a beacon of God's hope and love to our community.

Rector—Our rector is the **Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson**. If you need to reach him during the week, his email address is michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com.

Coffee Hour—All are welcome to enjoy Coffee Hour in our parish hall and on the patio after worship.

Morning Prayer—Fr. Michael Anderson invites you to join him in the Chapel to start your day with Morning Prayer at **9:00 a.m.**, on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. All are welcome.

Stewardship Reflections—Our annual Stewardship pledge campaign is “Walk in Love,” and includes weekly reflections printed on the last page of the bulletin. We invite you to study these reflections each week as you “walk in love.” **Pledge packets are available today**—please pick up yours, prayerfully consider your commitment, and return your pledge before December 1.

Celtic Christmas Faire - TODAY

Our annual fundraiser, the Celtic Christmas Faire, wraps up **today, November 3, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** Stay and do some Christmas shopping here. Thanks for your support!

Three Congregations Taizé—If you’re interested in a contemplative, meditative type of worship, the Three Congregations (Camarillo United Methodist, Mount Cross Lutheran, and St. Columba’s Episcopal Churches) are offering in-person Taizé-style prayer, held in the intimate setting of the Mount Cross sanctuary (102 Camino Esplendido, 93010) on the 2nd Friday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.—**this Friday, November 8**. If you are interested in participating as a musician, lector, or intercessor, please contact the Mount Cross office (office@mountcross.com or 805-482-3847).

Labyrinth Walk—Join us on **Saturday, November 16, at 10:00 a.m.** for a Gratitude Labyrinth Walk, led by facilitator Linda Drevenstedt. The labyrinth is located behind the church and preschool. It is a wonderful way to focus spiritually within a walking prayerful meditation. Light refreshments and time for fellowship will be provided after the walk. We will also be collecting food for St. Columba’s food pantry. Come celebrate all that you’re thankful for. See Gail or Paul Amendt for more information.

VACCINATIONS FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUSES CUT HOSPITALIZATIONS BY 50%

Vaccines for respiratory viruses are proven to cut hospitalizations by up to 50%, which is particularly important for vulnerable populations like the elderly, those with pre-existing health conditions, and individuals with weakened immune systems. 21,000 people died and 369,000 individuals were hospitalized for the flu during the 2022-2023 influenza season. Please consider getting vaccinated.

Prayer Request Procedures—Prayer is integral to our community, and we would love to pray for you. To add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email the church office at office.manager@stcolumbaca.com or call 805-482-8831.

Food Ministries Help—We are grateful to serve over 60 families three times per month. As we continue to do so, we need the following items: **cereal, oatmeal, pasta sauce, pasta, canned soup, mac & cheese, canned tuna, canned chicken, fresh bread, toilet paper, paper towels, and Kleenex**. If you would like to donate any of these items, you can bring them on Sunday or drop them off at the parish hall during the week. Alternatively, you can donate to our Food ministry fund, by indicating “Food Ministry” in the memo of your check. Your support is so appreciated by our food clients who truly need our help!

Ministers serving today:

Presider: The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson

Altar Guild: Beverly Pearson and Frances Cogswell

Ushers: Gene Doswell and Lyle Hyde

Lector: Maria Fernandez

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Nancy Miller and Maria Fernandez

Livestream Technicians: Tim Helton, Nancy Miller, Vinita Bhushan, Richard Stone, Carlos Barraza, Bill Hillbrant

Sound Engineer: Tim Brown

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for

those with immediate needs:

Millie Shutt, Justin Sandoval, Jerry Gillespie, John Barcroft, Ann Daniel, Wendie Roberts, Robb, Heather, Bruce Anderson, Keli, Jack Shutt, Chris Russell, Gail Morrissette, Cameron Harrison, Jenée John, Maggie Lunsky, Eileen Ely, Declan, John Fredrick, Emily Bianco, Alison Hillbrant, John Noonan, Linda Lowe, Mary Vasi, Lisa, Ivan

and those who need our continuing prayers:

Chance Kubinak, Ann Radzienda, Richard Lappine

We pray for all those serving at home and abroad:

- **Jesse Meyer, Liam O'Brien, Matthew Bamberger, Matt Zelinskas, Nathan Halpin, Jonah Hershman, and Chris Heney.**

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God by Gene and Susan Doswell in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.



To make changes to the prayer list for St. Columba's, please contact the church office (office.manager@stcolumbaca.com) or 805-482-8831.



Walk in Love

Receiving Love



Author and Motivational Speaker, Brian Tracy, is noted to have said, “we should ‘always give without remembering and always receive without forgetting.’”

Even as I have received, it is my endeavor never to forget. It is to this end, therefore, that I pen this reflection of a wonderful church community in Akron, Ohio in which I have seen “ways of walking in love manifested –Church Of Our Saviour Episcopal – and how they have been there for me during my times of need. In thinking of the benevolence of this great congregation, my mind reflects immediately upon three specific occasions in my life:

The first incident I recall, which was probably the most impactful to me, was when I suffered a house fire in the fall of 2018 and lost everything. This beloved church came to my immediate assistance providing me with the necessary sustenance that I needed. In addition to the basic needs, one of the families in the church graciously welcomed me into their home until I was able to get back on my feet and secure a place of my own. Further, I received a number of gift cards and care packages containing many useful items; all because the congregation had a heart to help. For this I will ever be immensely grateful.

Secondly, I recall the kidney transplant that I received in April of 2021 after having been on dialysis since 2006 (a fifteen-year period of time). Church Of Our Saviour and its beloved Rector, The Rev Debra Q Bennett, was always there to check on my well-being. During my weeks of recovery, I received many calls from the church to ascertain if I had need of anything. I think Mahatma Gandhi got it right when he said: “The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand hearts bowing in prayer.” Or as we read in scripture, “faith without works is dead.” -James 2:17

Finally, I think of the ongoing love that the church displays on a monthly basis in reaching out to the community with its Dinner-On-Us and Friendly Clothes Closet where it provides a hot meal and also free clothing to those who have need. I have benefited from both of these; and it only reminds me that just as I have been blessed, I must also be willing to help someone else who may be in need. | tens.org

Questions for Reflection:

How has your walk in love been changed by the love you have been shown?



Derwood Fitzgerald Lockett thanks his church: Our Saviour, Akron, Ohio, for demonstrating the Grace of God – truly showing how it is manifested. “I remain completely astounded by their love and largesse!”



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