



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

OCTOBER 5, 2025

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



The Episcopal

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774
865-986-2390

www.episcopalloudon.com
#episcopalloudon



GOOD MORNING!

GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today.

Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the *Hymnal 1982*, the blue books in the pew rack. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com, email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a pew card or email office@episcopalloudon.com to be placed on on the weekly email, *Parish Tidings*, for the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook: facebook.com/episcopalloudon.



Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Prelude *(only at 10:30)*

Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain
(Arthur Seymour Sullivan)

Entrance Hymn *(only at 10:30)*

Lord, make us servants of your peace

Hymnal 593

All standing

BCP 355

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

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

All 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 *(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)*

Hymnal S-280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Season of Creation

Lord of all the universe, through your incarnation in Christ you identified with the created order and proclaimed your love for the world; assist us through your Son to respect and cherish the earth and all its creatures, through Jesus Christ who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

Anglican Church of Canada

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Job 39:1–18

Lector A reading from the Book of Job.

“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?

Do you observe the calving of the deer?

Can you number the months that they fulfil,

and do you know the time when they give birth,

when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,

and are delivered of their young?

Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;

they go forth, and do not return to them.

“Who has let the wild ass go free?

Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,

to which I have given the steppe for its home,

the salt land for its dwelling-place?

It scorns the tumult of the city;

it does not hear the shouts of the driver.

It ranges the mountains as its pasture,

and it searches after every green thing.

“Is the wild ox willing to serve you?

Will it spend the night at your crib?

Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,
or will it harrow the valleys after you?
Will you depend on it because its strength is great,
and will you hand over your labour to it?
Do you have faith in it that it will return,
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?

“The ostrich’s wings flap wildly,
though its pinions lack plumage.
For it leaves its eggs to the earth,
and lets them be warmed on the ground,
forgetting that a foot may crush them,
and that a wild animal may trample them.
It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;
though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;
because God has made it forget wisdom,
and given it no share in understanding.
When it spreads its plumes aloft,
it laughs at the horse and its rider.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

BCP 779

Lector We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Lesson: Acts 4:32-35; 5:1-11

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Eternal spirit of the living Christ (verses 1 and 2)

Hymnal 698

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:13-21

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn (*only at 10:30*)

Eternal spirit of the living Christ (verse 3)

Hymnal 698

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**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, Form III

BCP 387

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, sitting, or kneeling as able.
Please add those intercessions and thanksgivings on your heart, silently or
aloud, at the appropriate points in the prayers.*

Lector

Holy God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, praying especially for the
incoming Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Reverend Sarah Mullally;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation;
**That we may use its resources rightly in the service of others,
and to your honor and glory.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others:
Marshall, Kathleen; Brenda B.; Jackie C.; David H.; Jenon; and all your children who suffer the effects of war, oppression, or natural disasters.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you”: Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 359

Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.

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

Celebrant and People

**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.**

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.**

The Peace

Standing as you are able.

Celebrant May the peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

Offertory Anthem (*sung by the choir*)
When morning gilds the sky

Hymnal 427

The Celebrant invites the people's offerings.

Doxology (*spoken at 8:00; sung 10:30*)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

1 Chronicles 29:14

Celebrant For all things come from you, O Lord;
People **and of your own have we given you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

From *Eucharistic Prayers*, Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher.
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016

Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)
(*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Hymnal S-120

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Hearts and minds and souls and voices
we lift in thanks and praise to you,
Lord God of heaven and earth.
You made the earth as a playground for us to enjoy your glory,
and yet we consistently turn your abundance into our scarcity,
your elegance into our meanness,
and your simplicity into our corruption.
In Noah you drew all the goodness of your creation into one ark,
and in Moses you placed the law of love
into the ark of your covenant.
In Christ you turned the wood of manger and cross
into the ark of your salvation.
And so we rejoice to thank you, singing, with all the company of heaven,
the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Hymnal S-125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.**

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant God our rock, to trust in you is to build a house on solid ground
that will never shift through wind and rain.
You make and renew your church through your word of life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon your people,
that all who eat and drink in your name
may behold you face to face and taste and see that you are good.
By that same Spirit come down upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
‘Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.’
After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
‘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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’
Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Renewing God, after half a year of flood
you brought the ark of hope to solid ground
and gave your creation new birth.
Heal your stricken world today,
that the groaning of the soil, the skies, and the seas
may foretell the greater glory you have prepared
for your time of eternal covenant grace.

As you justify your children by faith,
uphold all who face injustice and neglect and cruelty.
Hasten that day when your new heaven and new earth
will engulf the distress and disappointment
and destruction of your people,
and you will be all in all, everlasting God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

AMEN. (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Hymnal S-146

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 and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way. If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you prefer a blessing.

Communion Hymn (*only at 10:30*)

Now my tongue, the mystery telling

Hymnal 329

Celebrant Let us pray.

From Enriching Our Worship

All **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.

Announcements | Blessings of Birthdays and Anniversaries | The Blessing

Post-Communion Hymn (*only at 10:30*)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Hymnal 423

The Dismissal

From Church of England, Diocese of Guildford

Celebrant Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits
of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude (*only at 10:30*)

Blessed Earth

Franklin L. Sheppard

Flowers today are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of her parents by Alice Anderson.

Parish Announcements, Prayers, & Thanksgivings

Blessing of the Pets

Today, Rev. Becky will offer blessings for pets on a drop-in basis from 9:15-10:15 and from 12-1 on the front porch of the Parish Hall.

She also will bless pets tomorrow, on Monday, October 6, from 12-2, also on the front porch of the Parish Hall. Bring your pet by to say hello and receive a special blessing and treats.

Diocesan Women's Day Conference

*Saturday, Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Church of the Ascension, Knoxville*

The Episcopal Church Women of East Tennessee is hosting a women's day conference for all women of the diocese. Register at dioet.org; the fee to attend is \$20 and includes lunch.

Oct. 29 Field Trip to Good Samaritan Center

Would you like to know more about the Good Samaritan Center and what services it offers to the Loudon County community? Did you know that our own Jean Cardwell was instrumental in establishing the center? We will have an opportunity to tour the center and learn about the services and volunteer opportunities there.

Please plan to meet at the Good Samaritan Center, 119 A Street, Lenoir City. on Wednesday, October 29, at 12:30 p.m.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Parish Hall so that we can tell the staff how many will be coming. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Lucas by calling or texting (662) 588-4857.

Our Parish Prayer List

Marshall S; Kathleen; Brenda B.;
Jackie C.; David H.; Jenon

Continuing Prayers for:

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family;
Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley;
Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe; Beverly; Grace;
Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

For our Vestry leaders:

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.
Class of 2026: Drew H., Dawson H., Jenny L.
Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.
Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Dawson H., Sally L.

Also for the Diocesan Prayer List

St. Francis, Ooltewah, TN
St. Michael, Batesville, SD
Holy Cross, Pine Ridge, SD

October Birthdays

Bob Cantine October 2
David Morehouse October 2
Mark Strong October 3
Jack Lefler October 9
Nancy Heathcote October 10
Ann Murphy October 12
Jackie Buttinelli October 18
Cath Wilkinson October 24
Stephanie Fiebke October 27
Betsy Schwindt October 29
Beverly Baumgardner October 30
Sophie Fiebke October 31

October Anniversaries

Cal and Diane Van Koughnett October 15
Frank and Ruth Hennessy October 25
Rodney and Cindy Hentchel October 25

For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

Oct 5 25	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		
Acolyte	Andrew Wilkinson	Mark Smith	Altar Guild:	Keytha Graves & Drew Hawley
EM	Jack Lefler	Bonnie Smith		
Lectors	Peggy Rogers	Judy Egan	Flower Guild:	Rosemary Kitts
Ushers	Jen Hennes	David Baumgardner & Garry Lucas	Organist:	Judy Moyer
Coffee Hour	Pam McAfee	Ginny Tolbert	Celebrant &	
Video	n/a	Ann Murphy	Preacher:	Rebecca Bridges
Counters	n/a	Alice Anderson & Jean Cardwell		

NEXT WEEK

Oct 12 25	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		
Acolyte	Holly Pate	Drew Hawley	Altar Guild:	Keytha Graves & Drew Hawley
EM	Mark Hennes	Jane Mocilac		
Lectors	Jerry Ploeger	Liz Berg	Flower Guild:	Diana Stimpson
Ushers	Dave McAfee	Andy Hadjian & Art Stewart	Organist:	Judy Moyer
Coffee Hour	Cal Van Koughnett	Jackie Buttinelli	Celebrant &	
Video	n/a	Monty Ross	Preacher:	Marc Strong
Counters	n/a	Andy Hadjian & Nelda Griffith		

Next Week at Resurrection

Monday, October 6
 10:30 a.m. Companions group
 12-2 p.m. Front Porch Pet Blessings
 Tuesday, October 7
 1 p.m. Education for Ministry
 1:30 p.m. ECW wreath bow tying
 6:30 p.m. Vestry
 Thursday, October 9
 1:30 p.m. ECW wreath bow tying
 Sunday, October 12
 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken
 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral

Office Hours

Mondays: Closed
 Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Wednesdays: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Thursdays: Closed
 Fridays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Email office@episcopalloudon.com by Wednesday at 9 a.m. to have your ministry or committee's activities added to the parish calendar.

COMING UP ...

Sunday, October 19

One worship service at 9 a.m. followed by brunch in the Parish Hall as we kickoff our stewardship season with a special *Celebration of Service* with festive food and time to gather as we look toward 2026.

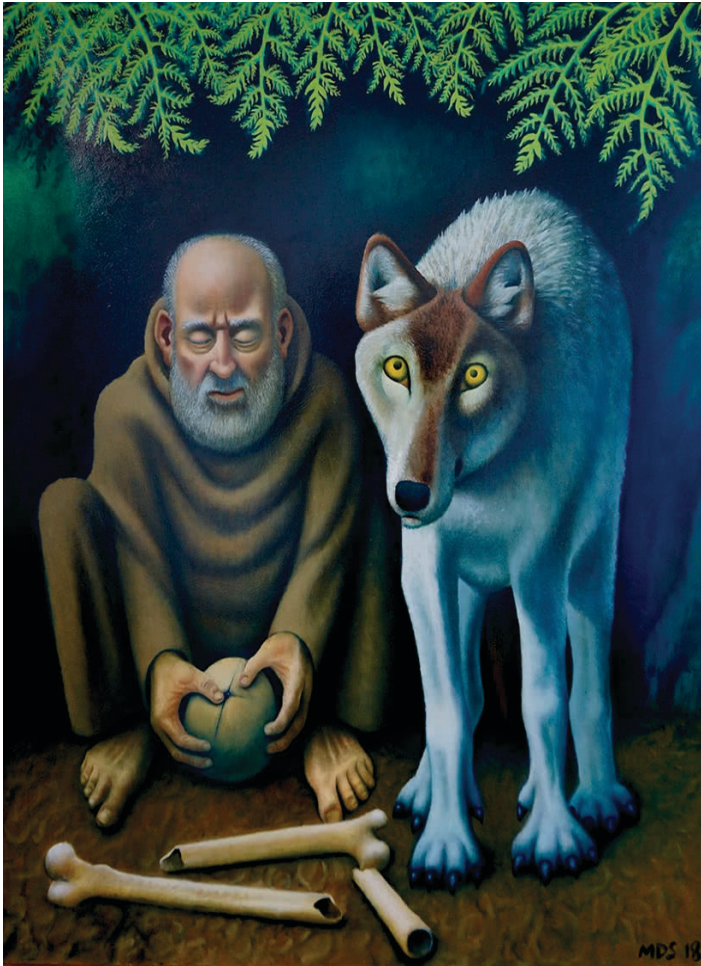
Thursday, October 23

Safe Church training will be offered in the Parish Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with lunch provided. Please RSVP to Rev. Becky at rector@episcopalloudon.com or by letting her know directly.

Check your Parish Tidings for upcoming details!

To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges, please email rector@episcopalloudon.com or call the church at (865) 986-2390. For pastoral needs after hours, call (865) 242-9240.

TODAY'S ART



Michael Smither (b. 1939)

Saint Francis and the Wolf, 2007 - 2018

Oil and alkyd on board

Completed over a period of nearly twelve years, *Saint Francis and the Wolf* is a major work by the artist which contemplates spirituality, the environment and harmony between man and members of the animal kingdom. It is based on the story of a lone wolf which terrorised the Umbrian town of Gubbio in 1220, attacking both livestock and inhabitants. The townspeople had heard that through grace, Francis of Assisi was able to communicate with creatures great and small. In desperation they appealed for his help.

Francis went up into the hills and met with the wolf. After calming the animal whom he addressed as Brother Wolf, it was proposed that should attacks upon the townspeople cease, they in return would feed him. In a gesture of submission and agreement the wolf placed his paw in Francis' hand and the pact was sealed. This legend has been portrayed by artists throughout the ages.

Michael Smither was raised within the Catholic faith and a number of his works depict religious themes and stories. In keeping with the centuries old tradition of adapting religious stories to local settings, Smither has nestled the Italian duo beneath a border of New Zealand ferns. The scene appears fresh, hyper-realistic and the brightness of the ferns is such that they resist any incongruity. The rock held by St Francis, and around which his figure is centred, recalls both the eucharistic bread and the similar forms of the artist's rock paintings.

On one level, this painting may be seen as a simple depiction of a man and his dog. This interpretation offers some insight into the artist's relationship with Catholicism, and his definition of spirituality which he described as belonging to every man and his dog. To this statement Smither added, and that's why St Francis has always been my favourite saint. He's the person who related to the whole world, right down to the sticks in the fire and the straw on the ground. Given St Francis' connection to the natural environment - he is the patron saint of animals and ecology - it is unsurprising that Smither favoured him in such a way.

Source: *The International Art Centre of New Zealand*, <https://www.internationalartcentre.co.nz/auctions/catalogue/201907/OI42723/Saint-Francis-and-the-Wolf-2007-2018>