

The Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Vicar



ST. FRANCIS
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

**St. Francis Episcopal Church,
Manakin Sabot, VA
October 13, 2013
4:00 P.M.**

Make yourself comfortable!

Welcome to worship today. We're glad you've come to glorify God with the people of St. Francis Church.

There is no "one right way" to participate. Join in as much as you want.

If you wish to sing, all our music is included in the bulletin. We have a lively contemporary band and music is a significant part of our worship experience. However, we recognize that visitors may not know the music. If you and your family are among these, we encourage you to hum along or simply sit back and enjoy the sound.

Filling out a name tag and placing it on your person will permit us all to greet each other by name while visiting here at St. Francis. Likewise, signing our guest roster will permit us to follow-up with you following this Sunday's worship.

If you are a guest today, don't feel obligated to make a financial contribution to the offering.

Rest rooms are located in the entrance Narthex and in the mobile office/classroom building adjacent to the worship hall.

"We are a welcoming community seeking to share God's unconditional love with all."

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Gathering of the Community

Gathering Song: Hear our Praises

May our homes be filled with dancing, may our streets be filled with joy; May injustice bow to Jesus as the people turn to pray.

(Chorus) From the mountain to the valley, hear our praises rise to You; From the heavens to the nations, hear our singing fill the air.

May a light shine in the darkness as we walk before the cross; May Your glory fill the whole earth as the water o'er the seas. (Chorus)

Alleluia! (repeated)

(Chorus)

The people standing, the Bishop says

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

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Bishop continues: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: There is one hope in God's call to us;

Bishop: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: One God, Creator of all.

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Bishop: Let us pray.

(All:) O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated. The Wardens stand near the Bishop.

The Bishop states the purpose of the gathering; and concludes:

People of St. Francis Episcopal Church, you have reflected on your ministry and discerned your choice for a new Vicar.

Wardens: We have chosen and called John Maher to be our Vicar, and he has accepted.

Bishop: I commend your choice and affirm this call

Letter of Institution of a Minister *(read by Bishop Goff)*

The Bishop continues: Are you, the people of St. Francis, ready to continue in your ministry, with John as your priest?

People: We are.

The Wardens escort the Priest from the nave to the front of the assembly.

The Word of God

Representative Lectors present a Bible and say:

John, with this Bible we proclaim and hear God's living Word. Join us in the ministry of telling the Good News to the World.

Vicar: Amen. Let us hear again the Good News of salvation.

The Lessons

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

(Isaiah 49:5-13)

And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength — he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene."

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

The Word of The Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Gradual Song: Worthy is the Lamb

Thank You for the cross, Lord; Thank You for the price You paid; Bearing all my sin and shame, in love You came, and gave amazing grace; Thank You for this love, Lord; Thank You for the nail pierced hands; Washed me in Your cleansing flow, now all I know Your forgiveness and embrace.

(Chorus:) Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne; Crown You now with many crowns, You reign victorious; High and lifted up, Jesus, Son of God, the Darling of heaven crucified; Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke. *(Luke 10:1-12)*

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Bishop: John; people of St. Francis: in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

People: We will, with God's help.

Bishop: The water of baptism signifies our eternal covenant with God. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to Christ, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(The Bishop may bless the water)

Bishop: We pray you, O God, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that all who in baptism are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Vicar: Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

(Water is poured into the font and the Bishop or the Vicar leads the renewal of baptismal vows.)

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: I do.

Vicar: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Vicar: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: We will, with God's help.

Vicar: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: We will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: We will, with God's help.

Vicar: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: We will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: We will, with God's help.

Vicar: May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers

A symbol of prayer is brought forward by Intercessors from the congregation.

Bishop: With this sign we offer our prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings to God.

Vicar: Amen. In the Spirit of God, who searches the heart and knows our deepest needs, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who yearn for Christ's healing.

Litany for Missions

Leader: Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,

People: Savior, deliver us.

Leader: From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,

People: Savior, deliver us.

Leader: From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,

People: Savior, deliver us.

Leader: From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,

People: Savior, deliver us.

Leader: O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Leader: Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

People: Hear us, O Christ

Vicar: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

A symbol of vestry leadership is presented

With this record we commit ourselves to leadership and decision making led by the Spirit of God

A copy of the strategic plan is presented

With this plan we commit all of our current ministries, and all of our hopes and dreams for the future of St. Francis to the mercy and provision of God.

A chalice and paten is presented by parishioners.

With is chalice and paten we commit ourselves to live out the story of redemption together and invite all people to this Table for the Feast of the Redemption of the world.

The Holy Communion

Offertory song

Eucharistic Prayer A

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Priest: 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All (Sung): **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: 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:

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

Priest: 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. Amen.

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

All: 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 priest breaks the consecrated bread and says:

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

[NOTE: All are welcome to receive Communion, whatever your faith tradition. Please receive the bread in the open palm of your hand. Then, either consume the bread and move to a chalice and receive from the chalice by guiding the base of the chalice to your mouth or take the chalice from the chalice minister. Or, you may intinct or dip the bread into the chalice and consume it. The glass chalice contains non-alcoholic wine for those who do not wish to consume alcohol for any reason. If you do not wish to receive communion but would like a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.]

Communion Song: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound! That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. 'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise, Than when we first begun.

Post-communion Prayer

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.

The Prayer of St. Francis

All: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Bishop: We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church. John., I commend to your love and care the people of St. Francis. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I commend to your love and care your new Vicar, colleague and friend, John.

The bishop blesses the assembly.

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator, Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our brother and Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide, be with you and remain with you, this day and forevermore.

Song of Dismissal: Multiply Your Love

Multiply Your love through us. To the lost and the least. Let us be Your healing hands Your instruments of peace. May our single purpose be to imitate Your life. Through our simple words and deeds, Let love be multiplied.

Multiply Your love through me. To someone in need. Help me Lord to freely give, This grace that I've received. Let my single purpose be, To imitate Your life. Through my simple words and deeds, Let love be multiplied.

[Chorus:] Let us see Your kingdom come To the poor and broken ones. Let us see a mighty flood Of justice and mercy, O Jesus, Let love be multiplied. Let love be multiplied.

Multiply Your church through us, To the ends of the Earth. Where there's only barrenness Let us see new birth. Use us as Your laborers, Working side by side. Let us see your harvest come, Let love be multiplied

[Chorus]

Let love be multiplied; Let love be multiplied; Let love be multiplied; Let love be multiplied
Multiply Your love through us, To the lost and the least. Let us be Your healing hands. Your
instruments of peace. May our single purpose be, To imitate Your life. Through our simple
words and deeds. Let love be multiplied.

Multiply Your love through us, Multiply Your love. Multiply Your love through us, Multiply Your
love

Dismissal

Vicar: Go in peace to love and serve The Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.