



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



[Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone](#), better known as [Saint Francis of Assisi](#) *From Wiki* ([Italian: Francesco d'Assisi](#); c. 1181 – 3 October 1226),^[a] was a [mystic Italian Catholic friar](#),^[3] founder of the [Franciscans](#), and one of the most venerated figures in Christianity.^[1] In 1223, he arranged for the first [Christmas live nativity scene](#).^{[b][4][5]} [Pope Gregory IX](#) canonized him on 16 July 1228. Francis later became associated with patronage of animals and the [natural environment](#). It became customary for churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his [feast day](#) of 4 October. In 1219, he went to Egypt in an attempt to convert the sultan [al-Kamil](#) and put an end to the conflict of the [Fifth Crusade](#).^[6] He founded the men's [Order of Friars Minor](#), the women's [Order of St.](#)

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Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

Wednesday, 5 Oct 2022 9:30am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

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

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

Presider: 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.

Gloria:

Hymnal 1982 S280

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.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People : And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

The Collect:

**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.**

(Please be seated for the reading of the lessons)

The First Lesson - A Reading from Job 39:1–18

"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 labor 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

- 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.**

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew 11:25–30

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I

will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon

Nicene Creed *(Traditional)*

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:

Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Jennifer, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader: O Jesus, you cared for your companions and for the little ones who surrounded you. We pray for our family, friends, and neighbors, and for those for whom you have given us a special care:

- * For the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache people, that we may honor each other and work together for our common good.
- * In the diocesan cycle of prayer for *St. Michael's & All Angels, in Tucson.*
- * In the Anglican cycle of prayer for *The Diocese of Mundri – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*
- * And for the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(The People may add their own petitions, aloud or silently)

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(The People may add their own thanksgivings, aloud or silently)

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *(people remember those who have died)*

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

Deacon: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

(a short pause)

All: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider: 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.**

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

People And also with you.

Offertory

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as a offering and sacrifice to God.

(Peoples' offerings are brought to the altar)

Doxology

(Hymn #380 v. 3)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creature here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen**

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving -

BCP Rite II Prayer C

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: *God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.*

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation.

But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

The Hymnal 1982 #S125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest (x2)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest (x2)

The Presider continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving:

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebekah and Isaac, Rachel and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

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

Lord's Prayer: (Traditional)

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.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
Therefore let us keep the feast!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. Come to the rail and extend your hand to receive the bread, wait for the chalice to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, then consume it. If you prefer not to have the wine, you may eat the bread when you receive it. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider Let us Pray

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: May the peace which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Deacon: *People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?*

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: *Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.*
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

Please, join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after worship.

Continued...

[Clare](#), the [Third Order of St. Francis](#) and the [Custody of the Holy Land](#). Once his community was authorized by the Pope, he withdrew increasingly from external affairs.

Francis is known for his devotion to the [Eucharist](#).^[7] According to Christian tradition, in 1224 he received the [stigmata](#) during the [apparition](#) of a [Seraphic](#) angel in a [religious ecstasy](#).^[8] Along with [Catherine of Siena](#), he was designated [patron saint](#) of [Italy](#).

Biography

Early life

Francis of Assisi ([Latin](#): *Franciscus Asisiensis*) was born in late 1181 or early 1182, one of several children of an [Italian](#) father, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, a prosperous silk merchant, and a [French](#) mother, Pica de Bourlemont, about whom little is known except that she was a noblewoman originally from [Provence](#).^[9] Pietro was in France on business when Francis was born in [Assisi](#), and Pica had him [baptized](#) as Giovanni.^[10] Upon his return to Assisi, Pietro took to calling his son Francesco ("Free man", "Frenchman"), possibly in honor of his commercial success and enthusiasm for all things French.^[11]

Indulged by his parents, Francis lived the high-spirited life typical of a wealthy young man.^[8] As a youth, Francesco became a devotee of [troubadours](#) and was fascinated with all things [Transalpine](#).^[11] He was handsome, witty, gallant, and delighted in fine clothes. He spent money lavishly.

^[5] Although many [hagiographers](#) remark about his bright clothing, rich friends, and love of pleasures,^[9] his displays of disillusionment toward the world that surrounded him came fairly early in his life, as is shown in the "story of the beggar". In this account, he was selling cloth and velvet in the marketplace on behalf of his father when a beggar came to him and asked for [alms](#). At the conclusion of his business deal, Francis abandoned his wares and ran after the beggar. When he found him, Francis gave the man everything he had in his pockets. His friends mocked him for his charity; his father scolded him in rage.^[12]

Around 1202, he joined a military expedition against [Perugia](#) and was taken as a prisoner at Collestrada, spending a year as a captive.^[13] An illness caused him to re-evaluate his life. Upon his return to Assisi in 1203, Francis returned to his carefree life. In 1205, Francis left for [Apulia](#) to enlist in the army of [Walter III, Count of Brienne](#). A strange vision made him return to Assisi and lose interest in the worldly life.^[8] According to [hagiographic](#) accounts, thereafter he began to avoid the sports and feasts of his former companions. A friend asked him whether he was thinking of marrying, to which he answered: "Yes, a fairer bride than any of you have ever seen", meaning his "Lady Poverty".^[5]

On a [pilgrimage](#) to Rome, he joined the poor in begging at [St. Peter's Basilica](#).^[8] He spent some time in lonely places, asking God for [spiritual enlightenment](#). He said he had a mystical [vision of Jesus Christ](#) in the forsaken country chapel of [San Damiano](#), just outside Assisi, in which the [Icon of Christ Crucified](#) said to him, "Francis, Francis, go and repair My church which, as you can see, is falling into ruins." He took this to mean the ruined church in which he was presently praying, and so he sold some cloth from his father's store to assist the priest there.^[14] When the priest refused to accept the ill-gotten gains, an indignant Francis threw the coins on the floor.^[5]

In order to avoid his father's wrath, Francis hid in a cave near San Damiano for about a month. When he returned to town, hungry and dirty, he was dragged home by his father, beaten, bound, and locked in a small storeroom. Freed by his mother during Bernardone's absence, Francis returned at once to San

[Continued online Wikipedia](#)

