

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



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

FEAST OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Wednesday, 4 October 2023 9:30am



From Wikipedia

[Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone](#) (c. 1181 – 3 October 1226), known as **Francis of Assisi** [OFM](#),^[a] was an Italian [mystic](#) and [Catholic friar](#) who founded the [Franciscans](#). He was inspired to lead a life of poverty as an [itinerant preacher](#). One of the most venerated figures in [Christianity](#),^{[4][1]} Francis was canonized by [Pope Gregory IX](#) on 16 July 1228. He is usually depicted in a brown [habit](#) with a rope around his waist with three knots, symbolizing the three Franciscan vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

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](#).^[5] In 1223, he arranged for the first live [nativity scene](#) as part of the annual [Christmas](#) celebration in [Greccio](#).^{[b][6][7]} According to Christian tradition, in 1224 Francis received the [stigmata](#) during the [apparition](#) of a [Seraphic](#) angel in a [religious ecstasy](#).^[8]

He founded the men's [Order of Friars Minor](#),

[Continued Pg11](#)

Announcements and Welcome

Rev. Allison Cornell

Salutation:

Presider: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
People: and also with you.

Priest: Let us pray the collect for purity together:

All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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:

186

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain

Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God in the high -
est, and on earth peace, on earth peace to peo-ple of good
will. will. A - men. A - men.

1-4 (1st time: to Refrain) to Verses | Final ⊕ Coda

Verse 1

1. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we
1. glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo-ry,
to Verse 2 or Refrain

1. Lord God, heav'n-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther.

Verse 2

2. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God,
2. Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world,
2. have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world,

2. re-ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand,
to Verse 3 or Refrain

2. the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us.

Verse 3

3. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

3. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
to Coda ⊕ or Refrain

3. Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.

The Collect:

Presider: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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 Readings: *(Please be seated)*

First Reading: 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 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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The 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. 4**

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

Gospel Reading:

Deacon/Reader: 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/Reader The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON/HOMILY

CONTEMPORARY NICENE CREED: *(please stand as you are able)*

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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:

Leader: As God's people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world.

For churches of all traditions:

People: That they may discover their unity in the One God and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For the earth that it may be freed from war, famine, and disease,

People: And the air, soil, and waters be cleansed of poisons, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For those who govern and maintain peace in every land,

People: That they may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For the strengthening of this nation to pursue just and honorable priorities,

People: So that all peoples may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For all who live and work in this town and county,

People: Preserve them in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: For those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison,

People: That you will comfort and empower them, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ who entered their eternal rest,

People: Who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God.

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for **The Diocese of Akure – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)**

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **The Church of the Epiphany, in Tempe.**

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tahona Odum peoples who call this area home.

People: May God bless and keep them.

Presider: Mighty God, whose Word we trust, whose Spirit enables us to pray: Accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose for the earth; through Jesus Christ, who rules over all things. **Amen.**

The Confession:

Deacon: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another:

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Presider: May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace:

Presider: May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

People: And also with you.

(The people exchange greetings of peace)

Offertory:

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and sacrifice to God

The Doxology:

#380 vs 3

**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.**

The Lord's Supper: The Great Thanksgiving - CofE Prayer D

Presider: The Lord is here.

People: His Spirit is with us.

Presider: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

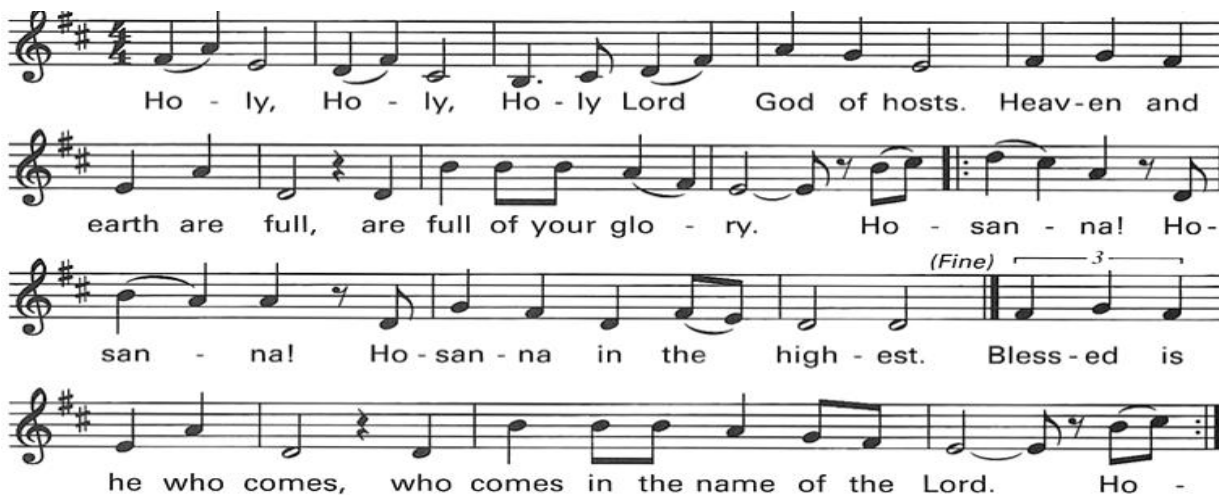
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider continues:

Almighty God, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to assure us of pardon and everlasting life. Your Word goes out to call us home to the places where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

Sanctus (from *Journeysongs* #189)

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he
touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the
freedom of your people. This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food. He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it
and said: “Take, eat: this is my body, given for you all. Do this in remembrance of
me.”

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine. He took the cup, gave it to them and said:
“This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in
remembrance of me.” This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup (+) blessed by your Holy Spirit, we
celebrate Jesus’ last supper before he died to show his love for us. Defying death
he rose again and is alive with you to respond to our entreaties and to answer the
cares of the world. This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit upon us now (+) that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*All **Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.**
Amen.*

Presider: And now as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

CONTEMPORARY LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven, Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread: *(Presider breaks the consecrated bread in silence)*
(from Journeysongs #194)

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that

*Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited and welcome to receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. If you prefer to intinct/dip your bread into the wine please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to sip the wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you are not ready to receive the bread and wine with us, you may come forward, cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the priest instead.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray:

All: **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you, within you to keep you, before you to lead you, beside you to guard you, and above you to bless you, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **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 in the power of God's Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Postlude: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus, based on Webb by George Webb, arr
Hugh S. Livingston, Jr

Please join us for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Continued from front

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

Francis is associated with patronage of animals and the [environment](#). It became customary for churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his [feast day](#) of 4 October. He is known for devotion to the [Eucharist](#).^[9] Along with [Catherine of Siena](#), he was designated [patron saint](#) of [Italy](#). [San Francisco](#) in [California](#), [United States](#), is named after him.

Names

Francis ([Italian](#): *Francesco d'Assisi*; [Latin](#): *Franciscus Assisiensis*) was baptized Giovanni by his mother. His surnames, di Pietro di Bernardone, come from his father, Pietro di Bernardone. The latter was in France on business when Francis was born in [Assisi](#), a small town in Italy. Upon his return, Pietro took to calling his son Francesco ("Free man" or "Frenchman"), possibly in honor of his commercial success and enthusiasm for all things French.^[10]

His full name contemporarily could be translated to John Peter "Francis" Bernardone.

Biography

Early life

Francis of Assisi was born c. 1181,^{[11][12]} one of the children of an [Italian](#) father, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, a prosperous silk merchant, and a [French](#) mother, Pica di Bourlemont, about whom little is known except that she was a noblewoman originally from [Provence](#).^[13]

Indulged by his parents, Francis lived the high-spirited life typical of a wealthy young man.^[8] As a youth, Francis became a devotee of [troubadours](#) and was fascinated with all things [Trans-alpine](#).^[10] He was handsome, witty, gallant, and delighted in fine clothes. He spent money lavishly.^[7] Although many [hagiographers](#) remark about his bright clothing, rich friends, and love of pleasures,^[13] 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.^[14]

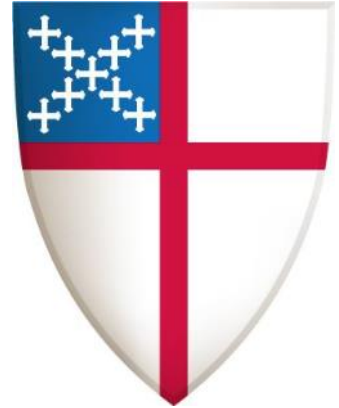
Around 1202, he joined a military expedition against [Perugia](#) and was taken as a prisoner at Collestrada. He spent a year as a captive,^[15] during which an illness caused him to re-evaluate his life. However, upon his return to Assisi in 1203, Francis returned to his carefree life. In 1205, Francis 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".^[7]

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 [Cont. online](#)

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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDay _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____