

MORNING PRAYER

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE REV. TERI WALDRON, PRESIDING

August 23, 2026



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED

OPENING PRAYER FOR PURITY AND COLLECT

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.

ASSISTANT: Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

CONFESSION

PRESIDER: Let us pray. Bound in love to the triune God, let us call upon the Lord of our salvation and recollect in silence those times when we have failed to live as beings created for love, either because of that which we have done or for that which we have failed to do.

*Examination of conscience:
What obstacles prevent me from loving fully and intimately?*

PRESIDER: Let us pray together then, to the God of Mercies.

PRESIDER & ALL: *Please join Presider on mute*

Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you,
 against one another, and against our Mother
 Earth.

Although you have made us incarnations of your
Love,
 we have not reflected your Divine Image in
 the world.

Although you have called us to intimacy in Christ,
we have shunned you in ourselves, in others,
and in your Creation.

Although you have poured upon us the Spirit of
freedom,

we have preferred our slavery to our
passions, greed, and complacency.

Turn to us Lord, even when our hearts turn away
from you.

Forgive us for the harm we cause to the innocent,
the vulnerable, the voiceless.

Forgive us for the harm we inflict
on the very planet that sustains us.

Instill in us a spirit of repentance.

Shake us from our complacency.

Move us to act in accordance with your Will
for the love of the planet and one another.

Awaken in us the hope of the Resurrection,
that recalling your boundless love for us
we may love boundlessly in return.

We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus.

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.

THE LESSONS

ASSISTANT: A reading from the Book of Exodus [1:8–2:10]

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor.

They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.”

But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.”

So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

Then his sister
said to
Pharaoh's
daughter,
"Shall I go and
get you a nurse
from the
Hebrew women
to nurse the
child for you?"
Pharaoh's
daughter said



to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the
child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her,
"Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will
give you your wages." So the woman took the
child and nursed it. When the child grew up,
she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and
she took him as her son. She named him
Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of
the water."

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124 *Please join Presider on mute in a responsive reading.*

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up
alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed
us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
*he has not given us over to be a prey for
their teeth.*
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare
of the fowler; *
*the snare is broken, and we have
escaped.*
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

THE EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Romans [12:1–8]

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

PRESIDER: ☩ A reading from the Holy Gospel
According to Matthew [16:13–20]

Glory to you Lord Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said,

“Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

May the words of the Gospel be made flesh in us.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

KINDLY KEEP ALL MICS MUTED DURING SERMON



*The Rev. Dr.
Vincent Pizzuto*

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All are invited to sit in silent communion with one another. Presider will signal the end of our meditation after four minutes.

LECTIO DIVINA

All are invited to share a short few words, phrases, or themes from the sermon that speak to our hearts. We raise our 'yellow hands' when ready to speak and lower when finished. The Presider will call on us. We listen prayerfully to each one, but do not comment.

*When the Presider sees that everyone who wishes to speak has done so, the Presider says **Amen**. [We are invited to save further reflections to our Coffee with Jesus.]*

MUSIC SIGNALS THE END OF THE LECTIO DIVINA.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

ASSISTANT: Let us together proclaim our profession of faith, which has been handed down to us from ancient of days.

TÍRECHÁN'S CREED (from the Patrician Texts from the Book of Armagh, AD670) *Please join Assistant on mute*

Our God is the God of all,
The God of heaven and Earth,
The God of the sea and rivers,
The God of the sun and moon,
The God of all the heavenly bodies,
The God of the lofty mountains,
The God of the lowly valleys.
God is above the heavens;
And beneath the heavens.
Heaven and Earth and sea,
And everything that is in them,
Such is the abode of the Holy One.
God inspires all things,
gives life to all things,
stands above all things,
And stands beneath all things.
God enlightens the light of the sun,
strengthens the light of the night and the stars,
makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the
sea,
And places the stars in the service of the greater
lights.

God has a Son who is co-eternal;
And similar in all respects;
And neither is the Son younger than the Father,
Nor is the Father older than the Son;
And the Holy Spirit breathes in them.

✠ And the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
are inseparable. Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

PRESIDER: ✠ Blessed be God, most holy, glorious,
and undivided Trinity.

ASSISTANT: And blessed be God's Kingdom now
and forever.

Amen.

PRESIDER: Lord, you taught us always to be
reconciled with our sisters and brothers. Let us
strive to be faithful to your law of compassion:

that we may forgive seven-times-seven, that we may love even our enemies, and bless those who curse us. And where we struggle Lord, let our earnest striving be enough for you, who sent your Son Jesus to be a healing balm of love. In His Name, O God, have mercy.

Amen.

PRESIDER: My sisters and brothers, the peace of Christ is with you!

ASSISTANT: And with your spirit.

PRESIDER: Let us embody Christ's peace for one another.

Presider will invite us into small groups for five minutes to get to know one another. If you are new to St. Columba's we welcome you. If you are a member already, please extend a warm welcome to those in your group.

Should you prefer to stay where you are and spend the next five minutes meditating alone, that's fine too!

BIDDING PRAYERS

PRESIDER: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Please pray responsively on mute, led by Presider.

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

For all people in their daily life and work;

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

For this community, the nation, and the world;

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

For the just and proper use of your creation;

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

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

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

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Austin our Bishop in the Diocese of California, Sarah Archbishop of Canterbury, and for all bishops and other ministers, both lay and ordained;
For all who serve God and their neighbors.

For the special concerns of this congregation.

Silence

PRESIDER: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

All are invited to voice prayers before the community or offer them in the silence of your heart. [Unmute before speaking, then kindly mute again.] Prayer Response:

PRESIDER: God hear us,

ASSISTANT: ***God graciously hear us...***

PRESIDER: Lord God, hear the prayers of your people: those we have voiced in the presence of your Assembly, those we hold in the silence of our hearts, and those for which we have yet to find words.

In gratitude and love, we entrust ourselves to you who knows better than we the deepest needs of our hearts. In the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRESIDER: Let us pray as Jesus taught:

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,
Forever and ever. Amen.

PRESIDER: Savior, Redeemer, Beloved of God, clothe us in your love, strengthen us to live gently on this earth, give us humility to see all we encounter as precious to you, and teach us to walk with kindness and patience this hour and always.

Amen.

PRESIDER: ☩ May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from your paths; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Three-In-One and One-In-Three be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

ASSISTANT: My siblings in Christ, let us go forth into the world to love and serve the Divine and each other.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE REACHED OUT
TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY!**

**ONLINE DONATIONS MAY BE MADE VIA THE "GIVE" BUTTON ON OUR
WEBSITE, OR CHECKS MAILED TO:**

ST. COLUMBA'S INVERNESS
PO BOX 430
INVERNESS, CA
94937

VIRTUAL CHAPEL ONLINE OFFERINGS

IF YOU ARE NEWLY JOINING US

**Please go to our website's VIRTUAL CHAPEL to access all of our
online offerings or to register your name and email to be
informed of our future offerings:**

www.stcolumbasinverness.org

NEED PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

*Please Email Meredith Burrell
who can help direct your needs to the right person:*
mburrell01@hotmail.com

ONLINE EVENTS

FALL 2026 PORTRAITS OF CHRIST VII

Open for registration now

Thursdays, 11am–1pm

August 27–September 24



EVENSONG

September 3, 7pm

Led by Ann McChesney-Young.



ST. COLUMBA'S SERMON RECORDINGS



NOON PRAYER

Weekly, Wednesdays, 12pm

Prayer, scripture study, meditation, and discussion, led by Mother Teri Waldron



AUGUST 2026 ECO-NEWS!



IN-PERSON EVENTS

MINISTRY MEETINGS

TODAY, after Coffee Hour

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE CIRCLE

Tuesdays

3:30–4:30pm

August 25: Praying in Color: Mystics—Deep Waters, Hidden Treasures, led by Anna Haight



PEREGRINATIO SUNDAY!

Next Sunday, August 30, 1pm,
at Heidrun Meadery

See QR for details.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Wednesdays, 7pm

Chapel

SICK TO DEATH!

Geoff Hoyle's side-splitting
adaptation of Moliere!

Performances: September 5, 6, 7, 12, & 13 at 4pm
in our Amphitheater

Calling all volunteers! Contact Kathleen Ferrando
at akferrando@comcast.net. Any and all help is
appreciated: shopping, baking, serving, set-up,
tickets, etc.



We also need donations to cover the cost of the
mead we sell at the theatre. If you would like to
donate to this fundraiser please mark it for
“mead.” Each bottle is about \$35. You can donate
through this QR code.



IONA LECTURE SERIES:
Contemplating Climate Change
with Trevor Houser

Sunday, September 20 at 1pm

Free and open to the public, wine and cheese
reception to follow



THRESHOLDS:

A Sensuous Encounter with Death

An in-person retreat with The Rev. Vincent
Pizzuto, PhD, and Rachel Gaunt, MA

Friday–Sunday, September 25–27

Limited to 12 participants—registration now open



BOOK LAUNCH

Robert Hass and Brenda Hillman will celebrate their new books, *A Third Commonness: Essays on Poetry, Poetics, and the Natural World*, and *Still House in the Desert: An Eco-Contemplation*

Saturday, September 26, 4pm at the Dance Palace, 503 B St., Point Reyes Station

Free event. No RSVP required

A SMALL CHANGE MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

Thank you to everyone who has made a habit of bringing a reusable cup to Coffee Hour! Before our Council for Ecological Discipleship began encouraging this practice, we were purchasing a case of disposable hot cups about every two months. That stretched first to three months, then six—and we've now gone 10 months without needing another case! It's a wonderful reminder that small, simple changes, made together, really do add up. Keep bringing your cup—and thank you for helping us care for creation, one Coffee Hour at a time.

ST. COLUMBA'S VIRTUAL PLATE FOR YOUR DONATIONS



SAVE THE DATES

October 15-17

Listening to the Land, an Eco-Spiritual Retreat
with Rev. Payton Hoegh
and Rev. Dr. Vincent Pizzuto

SAVE THE DATE

October 24

Diocesan convention at Grace Cathedral, where
St. Columba's will be instated as a parish

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS?

COFFEE WITH JESUS

Take few minutes to get your favorite morning beverage and return to us for coffee hour small group conversation.

