

MORNING PRAYER

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE REV. TERI WALDRON, PRESIDING

October 4, 2026



**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF CREATIONTIDE:
THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

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: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; 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 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.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121 *Please join Presider on mute in a responsive reading.*

- 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 EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
[4:32–35, 5:1–11]

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

PRESIDER: ☩ A reading from the Holy Gospel
According to Luke [12:13–21]

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.”

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. Jonas Ellison



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

THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

A COVENANTAL SERVICE FOR ALL GOD'S CRITTERS

PRESIDER: In the Name of the ☩ Three-in-One and One-in-Three.

Presider invites all to connect with their animal companion.

PRESIDER: Holy God, you have established your covenant with us and with all Creation, uniting us to yourself, and all living creatures to one another. Too often, humanity has betrayed your creatures and the covenant you have made with all. Yet, you remain faithful to all creatures in whom you have breathed the Spirit of life:

Creatures that walk upon the ground;
Fish that swim in lake and sea and river;
Birds that soar overhead in the air.

All these creatures you have bound to yourself in faithfulness and love.

Open our minds and hearts, that these little companions we bring before you today be constant reminders of the love you have for the whole of Creation.

PRESIDER & ALL: *Please join celebrant on mute.*

Source of Life, we give thanks for those living beings you have placed under our care. Help us to love them abundantly, discipline them gently, care for them deeply, and guide them tenderly.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

ASSISTANT: A reading from the Book of Wisdom
[11:23–12:1]

O God, you are merciful to all. Yes, you love everything that exists, and detest none of the things that you have made, since, if you had hated something, you would not have made it. And how could a thing exist, had you not willed it? Or how be preserved, if not called forth by you?

No, you spare all things, since all is yours, O LORD and lover of life! For your imperishable Spirit is in everything!

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

COVENANTAL PROMISE

PRESIDER: Let us pray. May the God of love look mercifully upon us all, help us to see the deep interdependence we share with all creation, and deepen our gratitude for the abundance of species with whom we share our planet. Mindful of the great responsibility you have placed upon us, we renew our covenant with these creatures given to our care, and pray that we may be faithful to them as you are faithful to us.

ASSISTANT & ALL: *Please join assistant on mute.*

May the unity of peace which you have established between all creatures never be broken by human greed, arrogance, or violence,

and may our lives reflect back to our animal companions the deep love we have for them.

PRESIDER: ☩ God of love, send upon us now your Holy Spirit that we may nurture a deeper kinship with all living creatures and by this act of renewal reaffirm the covenantal bond we share with the animals under our care.

Presider now invites all guardians to respond on mute to the following questions:

PRESIDER: Please say aloud the name you have given your animal.

Say the name of your companion.

PRESIDER: Do you promise to care lovingly for your animal companion as one of God's own beloved creatures?

I will.

PRESIDER: Do you promise to be mindful of their vulnerability and dependence on you and to always treat them with compassion and respect?

I will.

PRESIDER: Do you promise to love and protect your animal companion so long as he or she shall live?

I will.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORIAM

All pause to remember and bless those animal companions we have loved and lost. As we remember them in our hearts, all are welcome to voice the name of the animal that has passed that we might pray with you and bless them.

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL

PRESIDER & ALL: *Please join presider on mute.*

Loving God, we thank you for these beloved creatures who live alongside us as our companions and friends. We thank you for their innocence, their loyalty, their love and trust which enrich our lives and bring us boundless joy.

Teach us the value of kindness, the power of mercy, the strength of gentleness. Create in us a new spirit of humility in relationship with all Creation about which our little companions teach us so much. We give thanks and ask these prayers through your Son Jesus, whose new covenant of love gives life to all. Amen.

PRESIDER: May the Blessings of St. Francis be upon you and all your furry, scaley, feathery loved ones!

Amen

PRESIDER: And may God, ☩ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and your beloved beasts, and give you the strength to be faithful to the promises you have made to them today.

Amen



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

NOON PRAYER

Weekly, Wednesdays, 12pm

Led by Mother Teri Waldron



THERE IS NO SINGLE WAY IT CAN BE TOLD

St. Columba's Poetry & Writing Series, live on Zoom

November 14, 10am–12:30pm

\$40. Scholarships available



ST. COLUMBA'S SERMON RECORDINGS



IN-PERSON EVENTS

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE CIRCLE

Tuesdays, 3:30–4:30pm

October 6: Centering Prayer, led by Sarah Johnson



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, October 11, During Mass

Online Morning Prayer to be at 10am PT!

Father Vincent is asking both **in-person** and **online** communities to join together at 10am

Pacific time for the Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, October 11th. This will allow all members of the parish (near and far) to vote in the decision whether to move to parish status, which will take place during Announcements on Oct 11.

Please plan accordingly!

MISSION-TO-PARISH PARTY

October 11th, during coffee hour

LISTENING TO THE LAND

An Eco-Spiritual Retreat

October 15–17

In person with Rev. Payton Hoegh
and Rev. Dr. Vincent Pizzuto



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Chapel, Wednesdays, 7pm

SHARE THE HARVEST!

The Social Justice Ministry invites you to help nourish our West Marin neighbors in need. Bring your offerings to the church and we will do the heavy lifting!

Apples are ready for harvest. Anyone who can offer their picking skills, contact Anna.

ST. COLUMBA'S VIRTUAL PLATE FOR YOUR DONATIONS



SAVE THE DATE

October 24

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

CELTIC HARP CONCERT & STORYTELLING

With Patrick Ball

Sunday, October 25, 3pm

This sold out in 2025 so get your tickets now.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS?

COFFEE WITH JESUS

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

