Morning Prayer

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

Chris Olson, Presiding

November 15, 2026



The Twenty-Fifth 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: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever 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 us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

THE LESSONS

ASSISTANT: A reading from the Book of Judges [4:1–7]

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.



At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 123 *Please join Presider on mute in a responsive reading.*

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

THE EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians [5:1–11]

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

PRESIDER: ✠ A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew [25:14–30]

Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

“In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

“And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

“Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

“But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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 us and scatter the darkness from our paths; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Three-In-One and One-In-Three be upon us and remain with us 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

Noon Prayer

Weekly, Wednesdays, 12pm

Led by Mother Teri Waldron

St. Columba's Sermon recordings

In-person events

Christian Meditation

Chapel, Wednesdays, 7pm

Imaginal Seeing and Knowing:

The Prayer of the Heart

November 20–22

In-person retreat with Fr. John Hayes

Celtic Music Series Christmas Concert

With Amelia Hogan and Amhránaíthe

December 6 at 3pm

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

December 13 at 7pm

Come early for seats, parking, and Prelude!

Virtual Plate for Your Donations



Fourth Sundays-Food Sundays

You may leave food perishable and non-perishable for the local food bank in the basket in Frick Hall.

St. Columba's Church Directory

If you would like to be added or to change any of your information, contact Anna Haight at annhaight@stcolumbasinverness.org

Eco-Tip from the Social Justice Ministry Group

Be water wise: Small water habits add up fast across a household. Fix leaks promptly, install low-flow showerheads and dual-flush toilets, take shorter showers (the EPA notes that shaving a minute off everyone's shower would save a huge volume of water nationwide), drink tap instead of bottled, and reuse grey water from sinks and showers for your plants.

Coffee with Jesus

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

