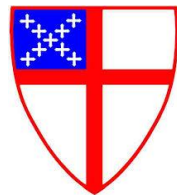


# Good Shepherd Episcopal Church



The Village of Pine Grove, Virginia



Blessing of the Animals  
for

St. Francis Sunday

The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025

# Welcome to Good Shepherd Church

*The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by Andrea Brown.*



## CALENDAR

- SUN Oct 5**    **The 17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00 a.m.**    **Morning Prayer** with Josette Keelor  
and **Blessing of the Animals**
- SUN Oct 12**    **The 18th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00 a.m.**    **Contemplative Eucharist** with The Rev. Martha Clark  
Lay Readers: Josette Keelor and Janet Locklear  
LEM: Janet Locklear | Prayers: Lee Ruddle  
Music Leader: Josette Keelor | Zoomer: Ron Edwards
- 12-2 p.m.**    **Harvest Grill** at the **Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue Co.**  
(see Notices)
- SUN Oct 19**    **The 19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00 a.m.**    **Holy Eucharist** with The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts  
Lay Readers: Lee Ruddle and Kelly Macoy  
LEM/Prayers: Tim Hall | Music Leader: Janet Locklear  
Zoomer: Penni Tidwell
- SUN Oct 26**    **The 20th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00 a.m.**    **Holy Eucharist** with The Rev. Deborah Rutter  
Lay Readers: Christine Kestner & Ron Edwards  
LEM/Prayers: Kelly Macoy | Music Leader: Janet Locklear  
Zoomer: Judy Hall



**The Pine Grove AA** meets at Good Shepherd every Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in person or by Zoom. Drop in or contact:

**<https://aavirginia.org/meetings>** - search for Bluemont.



A small group of five women are holding Al-Anon meetings at Good Shepherd every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Ladies, please feel free to join them.

**We do not pass the plate** to collect the offering. You may **leave your gifts in the offering plate on the table in the Narthex.**

## MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO AND BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Officiant: Josette Keelor

Lay Readers: Bethany and Rick Whitehouse

Acolyte: Bethany Whitehouse

Zoomer: Penni Tidwell | Music: Helena Goldberg

Prelude “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

### Welcome and Introduction

*The people standing, or seated with their pets, the Officiant leads the call to worship*

*Officiant* Blessed be the God of all creation.

*People* **Who brings all things into being and calls them good.**

*Officiant* Bless your Creator, all animals of the land.

*People* **Praise and exalt our Creator forever.**

*Officiant* Bless your Creator, all birds of the air.

*People* **Praise and exalt our Creator forever.**

*Officiant* Bless your Creator, all creatures of the sea.

*People* **Praise and exalt our Creator forever.**

*Officiant* Bless your Creator, all children of God.

*People* **With all of creation, we praise your name.**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*The Officiant says*

Gracious God, you have done all things wisely; in your goodness you have made us in your image and given us care over other living things. Grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may delight in your whole creation with perfect joy. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Opening **Hymn 400** “All Creatures of our God and King” *vv. 1, 4, 5*

**Confession of Sin** (*Please be seated or kneel*)

*The Officiant says*

Let us confess to God our sins against creation.

*Officiant and People together*

**God of compassion, we confess that we have squandered your creation, and mistreated those you give into our care. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for all that you have made, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

*The Officiant says the following*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*        This is the day the Creator has made.

*People*            **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!**

*The Antiphon (Officiant)*

The loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole Creation: Come let us adore the Creator.

**The Lessons**

*The people sit.*

*The Reader introduces the first lesson, saying*

A reading from the Prophet Job.

**The Old Testament: 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 121**

*Said responsively by half verse*

*Levavi oculos*

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 Reader introduces the second lesson, saying*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

### **The Epistle: Acts 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of St. Francis** (said in unison)

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;**

where there is darkness, light; and  
where there is sadness, joy.  
**O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled  
as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

*The Reader introduces the third lesson, saying*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

### **The Gospel: Luke 12:13-21**

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Homily**

*Josette Keelor*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Officiant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Officiant*    Let us pray.

*The people may sit or kneel.*

**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.**

## **Collect for St. Francis**

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.**

## **Litany for All Creation**

*The Officiant says*

Call out the names of those animals for whom we care.

Call out the names of those animals who are no longer with us.

*Officiant*    Let us pray.

*The Prayers may be led by a Deacon or other Leader.*

*Deacon*      Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

*People*        **Have mercy upon us.**

*Deacon* Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

*People* **Have mercy upon us.**

*Deacon* Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

*People* **Have mercy upon us.**

*Deacon* Grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*Deacon* Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, providing food and drink for all your creatures;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*Deacon* Open our eyes to the wonder of creation, that we may see you in all your works;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*Deacon* Stir in us the desire to care for your creation;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*Deacon* Make us wise and faithful stewards of creation, caring for the earth, the waters, the air, and all that live therein;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*Deacon* Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*Deacon* Look with compassion on those that are abused and mistreated, show us their dignity in your creation;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*Deacon* Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us that, that they may rejoice in your new creation;

*People* **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

*The deacon or lay leader continues*

Holy Immortal One: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## The Blessing of the Animals

*The Officiant says the following*

God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

*Those who bring animals for blessing hold or place their hands on their animals in blessing. They are blessed by name by the Presider, using these or other words. If animals are not present, the Presider joins in prays with those remembering them.*

*Officiant and Prayer Intercessor*

N., may God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. **Amen.**

*When all have been blessed the Presider prays:*

*Officiant* Let us pray.

God of all creation: we give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Peace (*The People stand*)

*Officiant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## Announcements (*Please be seated*)

## The Offertory

*The Officiant begins with a sentence of Scripture*

*BCP p. 376*

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

*Please leave your offering in the plate on the Narthex table.*

*The People stand for the Doxology*

**Hymn 380 v.3** “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

### **Closing Prayer**

Loving God, Creator of all, we thank you for the beauty of Creation; show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide us by your wisdom, that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing **Hymn** “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand”

1. *He’s got the whole world in His hand (3x)*  
*He’s got the whole world in His hand*
  
2. *He’s got the wind and the rain in His hand (3x)*  
*He’s got the whole world in His hand*
  
3. *He’s got the little tiny baby in His hand (3x)*  
*He’s got the whole world in His hand*
  
4. *He’s got everybody here in His hand (3x)*  
*He’s got the whole world in His hand*
  
5. *He’s got the whole world in His hand (3x)*  
*He’s got the whole world in His hand*

### **The Dismissal**

*Officiant* Go in peace to treasure and to tend the world God made and loves.

*People* **In the name of Christ.**



# NOTICES

## INTRODUCING A CONTEMPLATIVE EUCHARIST

*Be Still and Know: A Time of Quiet Worship and Communion*

Be sure to join us for **our first Contemplative Eucharist, next Sunday, Oct. 12.** These quiet services will be happening one Sunday each month through the Advent season. **It's a time to slow down, pray deeply, and share the Eucharist.**

**What is Contemplative Worship?** In the Episcopal Church, Contemplative Worship at its heart offers a quieter service that is recognized for its simplicity, silence, and reflection; a peaceful time in God's Presence and with each other.

**Good Shepherd's Contemplative Eucharist service** will offer a quiet, more spacious rhythm of worship, inviting us to rest deeply in God's presence. The liturgy of the Holy Eucharist will remain at the heart of our gathering, but with extended pauses for silence, reflection and personal prayer. Music will be simple chants rather than full hymns, inviting prayerful listening and gentle participation.

Hopefully, we will all see and experience this as an opportunity to slow down, breathe, and open ourselves to the still, small voice of God in our personal lives and our life together as a worshipping community.

The next two contemplative services are planned for Nov. 9 and Dec. 7.

## ALSO NEXT SUNDAY: HARVEST GRILL

The **Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.** will be serving up a **Harvest Grill** at 131 Retreat Rd, Bluemont on Sun., Oct. 12 from **12 to 2 p.m.** The menu is to include grilled chicken, Italian sausage, hot dogs, sides, dessert, and drinks. Eat-in or carry-out. Adult meals: \$15; children, 5-12 yrs: \$8. Children under 4 eat free.

This important fundraiser includes a Silent Auction (12 tons of gravel, delivered!) that is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. [www.blueridgefire.org](http://www.blueridgefire.org)

## OUR COMMUNITY



### Thank you for your support of FISH!

In September, we collected **78 pounds of food and supplies** for FISH of Clarke County. **Fifty-nine to-go meals** and numerous “kids” meals were also distributed as part of our outreach effort. **Thanks to Janet, Christine, Bethany, Eileen, and Martha for volunteering last month as well as for all your generous donations.** Please contact Janet Locklear if you would like to support this **food ministry**.

The FISH clothing store and food pantry at 36 E. Main St., Berryville is open every Tuesday from 8 to 10 a.m. and Wednesday from 8 to 11 a.m. Anyone not able to stop by when FISH is open may contact them at 540-955-1823 or [fishfoodpantry@comcast.net](mailto:fishfoodpantry@comcast.net) to schedule no-contact delivery. If you would like to volunteer for FISH, call 540-955-1823.

### IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY FOR A HOLIDAY CHOIR

As we enter October, it is time to start thinking of the Holy Days ahead and planning for our **Advent and Christmas music!** Please let Janet Locklear know if you are interested in participating in our seasonal choir or/and an instrumental ensemble (guitar, flute, clarinet, bells, drum and more).

### VESTRY NOTICES

If you didn't notice when you arrived this morning, take a look at the **newly painted church roof and steeple** when you leave. The other facility and grounds projects to come include work on the gutters, repair of the front steps, and adding new steps and a railing from the grass parking area to the driveway. Penni Tidwell is leading the effort on the steps and parking area project. Please contact her if you would like to help gather information from contractors.

## **JUDY & TIM SABBATICAL**

The Halls, who have been enjoying a well-earned mini-sabbatical, will be returning after the service next Sunday, Oct. 12. **Thank you to everyone who helped with many duties during this time:** setting the altar and doing flowers, sending weekly emails, posting electronic bulletins and updating the website, checking the mailbox and P.O. Box, doing the bank deposits, Zooming the services, mowing, and more! The Halls have tentative plans for an extended vacation in early 2026, so this was a good practice run for how to keep the church running in their absence. And **your continued help** would be much appreciated even after their return next week.

## **PRAYER LIST MAINTENANCE**

Please send an email to [PrayerList@goodshepherdbluemont.org](mailto:PrayerList@goodshepherdbluemont.org) if you want friends or family added to or removed from the Prayer List. Please use this email address rather than contacting any individual person, thus ensuring that everyone involved in managing the Prayer List and all the clergy are notified.



## **GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

27 Good Shepherd Road; P.O. Box 324, Bluemont, VA 20135

540-252-5825 | [office@goodshepherdbluemont.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdbluemont.org)

[www.goodshepherdbluemont.org](http://www.goodshepherdbluemont.org)

*Senior Warden: Judy Hall*

*Register: Janet Locklear*

*Junior Warden: Ryan Keelor*

*Treasurer: Tim Hall*

***Follow Christ. Welcome All. Serve Humbly.***

## PRAYERS

*Please pray for our neighbors and for ways we can serve the community.*

***Friends and Family:*** Brian Sweeney (Natalie's brother), Amie Comer (friend at Rose Hill); Judi Floyd and her brother Bill; Rose Holden, her sister-in-law Nancy, and her neighbors Andy Pope and Donna Sowder; Jon Hall (Tim's brother); Patricia Critchfield (mother of Kathleen and widow of Verne); Daniel Murphy (hiking the Appalachian Trail); Elaine J. (Christine's friend); Darlene Schaffer; Vickie Hooper (in-law of the Halls); Terry (our neighbor Gertrude's niece); Becky Loker (daughter of a friend of the Halls); Eileen Cawood; Adriana Rincon and family (Ron's friend); Lyam (Ron & Christine's friend); Lovette & the Rev. Michael Sie; Nancy Kelley and her great-grandson Hyden McClain; Kevin Tapscott (Lois's nephew); Yvette Webster (Rachel's partner); Craig Eney (Andrea's brother-in-law); Cat Cox (Retreat neighbor); Bobby Duke (our neighbor); The Adamson Family in Russia, especially Chris; Dusty Bailey and Ted Weaver (Charlene's friends); Martha Hayes; Lee Ruddle and his spouse, Dane Toler; David Aikman (Charlene's husband); Tim & Cindy Ingram; Michael Mohn (previous clergy); Kathleen Franz (Kelly's mother); Roberta Adams (Tim Ingram's friend); Sam Myers, John West, and Kenny Lucas (Darlene's friends & family).

*To add someone to or remove someone from the prayer list, send an email to [prayerlist@goodshepherdbluemont.org](mailto:prayerlist@goodshepherdbluemont.org)*

***The Church:*** For Stephen, Acting Archbishop of Canterbury; for Sean, Presiding Bishop; for Mark, Gayle and Mark our Bishops; for Debbie, Martha, and Cathy, our Supply Clergy.

***In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer,*** we pray today for Meade Memorial, White Post, and St. Bartholomew's, Richmond.

***In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer,*** we pray today for The Anglican Church of Tanzania.

