

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE



September 5, 2021

**The Fifteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

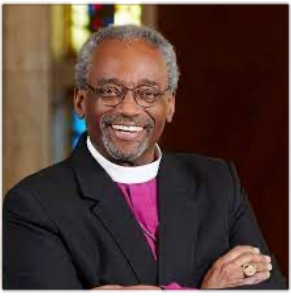
Our Mission Statement

*Helping Hands - Healing Hearts  
Welcome All*

Our Vision Statement

*To be an engaging, passionate, spiritually healthy  
community, open to all God's people*

THE  
DODD  
BUCKER



# Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

August 31, 2021]

As Episcopalians, as followers of Jesus, as people of faith, we mourn the recent loss of life in Afghanistan, the ongoing chaos and instability, and the risk that many Afghans face, in particular women and girls.

The situation in Afghanistan is changing quickly with many lives lost and thousands more at risk. The current crisis leaves over 5 million displaced Afghans in the country, in bordering nations and many more around the world who have been evacuated, who are trying to find long-term safe solutions.

As Afghans arrive to the U.S. with the hope of safety, The Episcopal Church, through the work of Episcopal Migration Ministries, is assisting our new neighbors through the Afghan Parolee Support Program.

This new U.S. program, dependent on private resources and community-led welcome and support, will provide security and foundation necessary for arriving Afghans to begin life in the U.S.

The ministry of offering welcome to those fleeing violence is nothing less than God's work—one that calls us to walk the way of love as Jesus of Nazareth taught us, through compassion, through practical care, showing to our newest neighbors that we are neighbors.

Episcopal Migration Ministries has launched a special appeal—Neighbors Welcome: Afghan Allies Fund—to meet the financial and in-kind needs necessary to provide adequate housing, basic services, and long-term support.

The needs are great and will require our communities and congregations to come together to contribute financially, offering housing, volunteer, and pray.

You can also stay involved in the work of advocacy in ensuring that the government of the United States honors its commitments to our Afghan allies.

Included with this video, there are links and information sources that can assist you in participating in any way that you can.

As Episcopalians in the late 1930s rose up to respond to allies, primarily Jewish allies fleeing tyranny in Europe, at the advent of the Second World War, as Episcopalians have continued to rise up wherever and whenever there has been human need, joining hands with other peoples of faith and people of goodwill, so now I invite you to rise up again for our

Thank you for all that you do.  
Thank you for this work.  
Thank you for anything that you can do.

God love you.  
God bless you.  
And may God bless the people of Afghanistan wherever they may be. Amen.

*Find out how to stay involved in the work of advocacy in ensuring the U.S. government honors its commitments to our Afghan allies at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/>*

*To contribute financially to provide for housing, medical and financial support, and expanded community sponsorship to serve our Afghan allies, visit [bit.ly/supportafghanallies](http://bit.ly/supportafghanallies) to make a secure donation online, or text “EMMALLIES” to 41444.*

*For opportunities to volunteer, provide housing, or sponsor, visit <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/volunteer-community-interest-form/>*

## New Service Schedule beginning September 12th

<b>Sunday Services</b>	
<b>8:00</b>	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
<b>9:00</b>	Rite Two Eucharist/ZOOM
<b>10:30</b>	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
<b>Wednesday Service</b>	
<b>Noon</b>	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave



Dear Doubters of Great Faith,

We need additional people to assist with the Audio Visual equipment and livestreaming of the 10:30 service. This involves being at the church by 10 AM on the Sunday scheduled, getting the system turned on, distribution of microphones, and getting the livestream ready to go. Once we go live, you need to be at the monitor in the back of the church throughout the service in the event that there would be an issue. If this is something that you think you might be interested in, please contact Fred Ellis for more details. Fred may be reached at 214-704-3923 or [fellis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fellis@sbcglobal.net).

### **An Opportunity to Serve Your Church**

As we return to our Sanctuary, and resume a more familiar worship service, an opportunity exists to take a more active role in our services. I am the Interim Acolyte Guild Head. The Acolyte Guild provides the Crucifer, and 2 Torches to each of our in person services, and for special services, when needed. It is an all volunteer group. At this point, each Acolyte will ideally serve no more than 2 Sundays each month. If you have a desire to become an Acolyte, or would like to know more about serving as an Acolyte, please feel free to contact me at [dauidahess@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dauidahess@sbcglobal.net).

# Mission/Outreach

Fellow Doubters,

The Outreach Committee is excited to announce a new partnership with Cathedral of Hope in supporting their three programs that help to serve the food insecure and homeless population of Dallas. Our goal in partnering with other organizations is to support existing, robust programs that assist those in need in our community. In partnering with Cathedral of Hope, we hope to provide volunteer opportunities to our members as well as encourage interaction between St. Thomas and likeminded local organizations.

In addition to the three volunteer activities, we Doubters can also support the programs by donating items for the food pantry at CoH. The items to be collected would be canned or nonperishable food items (single serve packaging and protein foods are preferred) and travel sized toiletry items. Both food and toiletry items are distributed to visitors on a regular basis along with hot meals. We will collect the items at the services in the Narthex. We will have a basket or similar container to leave any donations you may have.

If you are interested in the new volunteer opportunities with Cathedral of Hope, please see the descriptions of the three food programs. To sign up or receive additional information, please contact Anita Haddy at the following link <https://cathedralofhope.com/anita-haddy> or call (214) 351-1901.

**Breakfast at Cathedral of Hope (BACH)** operates on Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 9 a.m., providing a hot, to-go breakfast for those living with food insecurity. Volunteers arrive at 7 a.m. to set up and they leave after everything is cleaned up. The number of volunteers is limited to those who have been scheduled to serve on a specific date since we are still operating on a to-go, take away basis. All those who participate in this ministry must have a current food handler's certificate on file, and Bill Martin can assist you in obtaining it. During this time of COVID 19, we are observing protocols of wearing face masks and social distancing.

**iCare Lunch** operates on Monday mornings from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., providing lunch to-go for those living with food insecurity. Volunteers arrive at 9:30 a.m. to set up and they leave after everything is cleaned up. The number of volunteers is limited to those who have been scheduled to serve on a specific date since we are still operating on a to-go, take away basis. All those who participate in this ministry must have a current food handler's certificate on file, and Bill Martin can assist you in obtaining it. During this time of COVID 19, we are observing protocols of wearing face masks and social distancing.

**Taste of Hope** – Volunteers gather to cook, package, and deliver hot meals to deliver to those experiencing food insecurity in Dallas. Prior to serving, participants in this program must obtain a food handler's certificate. During this time of COVID 19, we are observing protocols of wearing face masks and social distancing.



Consecrated Hosts are available at the church office for those participating virtually in Sunday services. Please email or call the office ([pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) or 214-352-0410, ext. 104) before coming to ensure there is someone here.

## A new way to see church!



We are now live-streaming our 10:30 AM service on Facebook Live. You do **NOT** need a Facebook account to watch the service. Simply click on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheDoubter/live/>

You will then have 3 options, log in to your Facebook account, create an account, or click on the livestream that you want to watch. If you do not have a FB account, simply click on the livestream that you want to watch, and it will open.

We will go live approximately 5 minutes prior to the start of the service. We hope that you will worship with us in person. However, we are offering this as we continue to move forward in a post COVID-19 world.



Celebrating 136 years of Prayer, Service and Evangelism

All women members of the church can look into this LIFETIME COMMITMENT to this important service to the Parish and our Rector by going to the website - <http://www.doknational.org> - prayerfully consider joining. They may call and leave word on Nan Alexander's voicemail and I will be happy to be of help to anyone interested. This is not a guild but a commitment.

# St. Thomas the Apostle in Person Service

DATE: Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**NOTE: The ZOOM service remains at 9:00 a.m.**

IN-PERSON LOCATION: The Nave

**During the months that the property was closed down due to COVID-19, the HVAC system throughout the entire property has been outfitted with advanced equipment for our safety. St. Thomas has installed air scrubbers on all of its HVAC units.**

**These air scrubber systems are many times more powerful than normal HVAC filtration systems at eliminating airborne pathogens. HVAC systems can capture dirt and dust from the air through their regular air filter inserts. Meanwhile, the scrubbers using UV light can get rid of much more minute living organisms such as bacteria and viruses, which further improves the air quality.**

Parking is available in both the South and North Lots.

***Masks are required for all in-person services.***

Temperatures will be taken prior to entering the Nave. Individuals with temperatures of 100 degrees or higher will not be allowed to enter.

**In case of the unanticipated need for contact tracing, attendees will need to sign a register in the Narthex before going into the Nave.**

**The entire service will be in a printed bulletin.**

Music accompaniment will be provided by the organ.

**There will be congregational singing.**

During the exchange of the Peace, please be sensitive to those around you during this time. If you sense that someone might not be comfortable with hugging or even touching, respect that person's space.

# Parish Schedule

## Week of September 5th

<b>5 Sunday</b>	<b>The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
9:00 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Zoom
10:30 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
11:30 am	Coffee and Social time/ IG
<b>6 Monday</b>	<b>Labor Day Office Closed</b>
<b>7 Tuesday</b>	
<b>8 Wednesday</b>	
7:00 pm	CoDA/ZOOM
<b>9 Thursday</b>	
<b>10 Friday</b>	
<b>11 Saturday</b>	
8:00 am	Step Up/SR
	<b>**Serving Altar Guild Members**</b> J. Lambert, S. Toon, D. Aston
Key Code:	SR - South Room; NR - North Room; CG - Community Garden; PH - Parish Hall; CR - Office Conference Room; K - Kitchen; N - Nave; IG - Interior Garden



## PRAYER LIST

Do you know someone who is in need of our prayers? Please email [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) to add them to our Prayer List. Names will be kept on for the current month unless notified otherwise and those names are in *italics*.

**Healing in the Lives of:** Ben Gloria Ann Patricia Melba  
Ginger Annie Sandy JR Merjen Jack Harold  
Kelly David Rusty Tim George John Rodney Ronny  
Linda Wynne Cody Boes Family JT Carlo Christoria  
John S. Stephanie Annette Edward Dane & family

**In Thanksgiving For:** This Parish

**God's Grace for:** Children of Belize Gary Don Tammy James

**Guidance:** Gwen

**In Prison:** Allen Orlando Steven Aaron Brandon Hank  
GR Stephanie Frank

**Serving in the Armed Forces:** Alex Aaron Connor Joyce  
Collin Tyler Jesse

**Seeking Employment:** Bryan Maurice Brook Robin Vicki  
Trey Gabby Gabriel Gail Oliver Aarib

**Rest of the Soul:**

**In the Diocese:** Nashotah House Theological Seminary  
Trinity School for Ministry  
Duke Divinity School  
Wycliffe College

# Liturgical Assignments & Lectionary

**Sunday, September 5, 2021**

**Counters:** M. Legacy & L. Pearson

**LEMs:** Sub-Dcn: S. Toon 2nd LEM: N/A Ext: B. Day

**Lectors:** 9:00 am Zoom Service

1st & Psalm: R. Woodward 2nd: R. Woodward

POP: R. Woodward

10:30 In-Person Service

1st: J. Brown 2nd: J. Knight

POP: M. Legacy

**Ushers & Greeters:** K. Carson, J. Lambert, A. Montegue

**Acolytes:** Crucifer: D. Hess Torches: K. Carson & M. Legacy

**Sound:** Fred Ellis

## First Reading

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23

## Psalm

125

## Second Reading

James 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17

## Gospel

Mark 7: 24-37

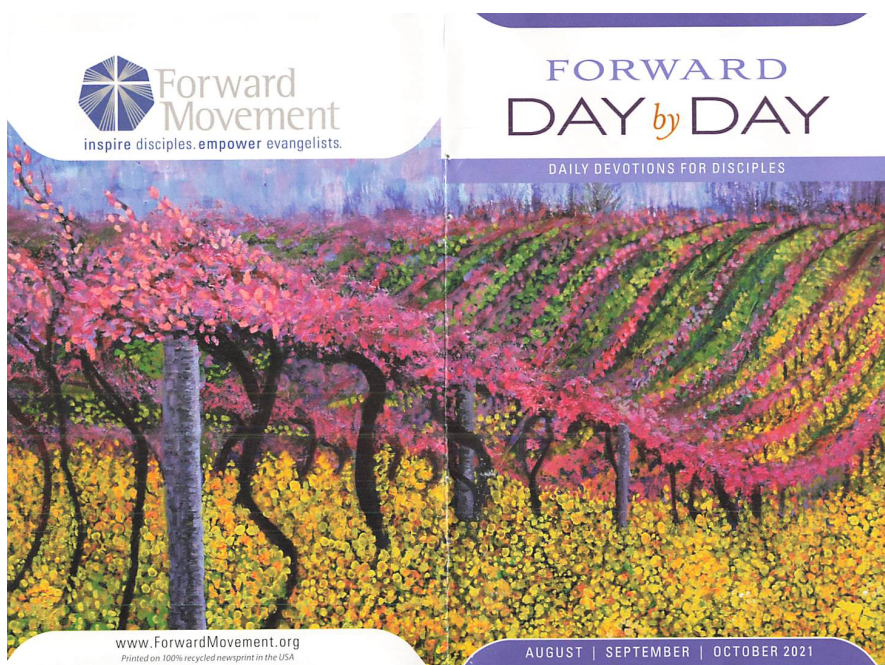
We now have a weekly service in the Nave on Sundays at 10:30 followed by a social gathering in the Parish Hall. We need folks to step up and take on some responsibility for making it happen. If you can help with:

- Coming a little early and help with setting up the service;
- Providing a snack; or
- Staying a little longer and helping put items away

please let Pam know at [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) Together we can put social in the Social Time.



As we gather again in person for worship, if you would like to sponsor the **Altar Flowers**, **Mary Candle** or **Sacrament Lamp**, please contact [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org).



***Forward Day by Day***  
for Aug/Sept/Oct  
is now available in the  
Narthex, the church office  
and on the newsstand  
outside the South room.

# Sermon for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Christopher Thomas**

**Sermon for 14th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B, Proper 17 – 8/29/21**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

“Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:”

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The words of Jesus, referred to as his “Great Commandment,” are so important that it makes all four Gospel texts.

These words are a part of the opening sentences of the Rite I service of Holy Eucharist in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Although I have vague memories of the 1928 prayer book that preceded it, as a cradle Episcopalian, most of my impressionable life has been spent in the 1979 version. So I remember hearing those words, Sunday after Sunday, up to and through a significant part of my adult life, when I found myself in predominantly Rite II congregations.

As I was reading and praying through the scriptures assigned to this week, and considering what I’d bring to you by way of proclaiming the good news of the gospel, I found myself pondering why the “Great Commandment” did not make it from the Rite I service to the Rite II service? After all, the “Great Commandment” does some critical theological heavy-lifting for us.

What happened to the “Great Commandment?” Where did it go? Why was it left out of Rite II? Prior to the 1979 edition, the 1928 prayer book included, at the beginning of each Eucharist service, the reading of the Decalogue, more commonly known as the “10 Commandments.” I am sure that you’re all familiar with the top ten list of “Thou Shalt Not’s:”

- Thou shalt not worship idols
- Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain
- Thou shalt not commit adultery
- Thou shalt not steal

You get the idea. It’s important to remember all these things that, as followers of God, we’re expected NOT to do. These rules, laws of conduct, were critical to the people of Israel’s original covenant with God in how they were to be in relationship with God, to each other, and themselves. And quite frankly, they are critical to us. Without laws, rules and regulations, things would get out of hand pretty quickly.

Now nobody loves rules and regulations more than me. It’s probably a big part of why I spent the first 25 years of my career and ministry as a Church Business Administrator. Administrators are binary thinkers, with a strong sense of right and wrong. (To make matters worse, I’m a strong 1 “reformer” on the Enneagram scale.) Follow the laws, and things go well; miss filling out a form, submitting the

## Sermon for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

correct receipts, or coming up with a spreadsheet for everything you can possibly imagine, and the world is headed for swift and sure chaos. You could characterize me a “Pharisee.”

The Pharisees were the “law-hawks,” or “legal-eagles,” the Church Administrators of their day. They were the “No” folks. No, we don’t have enough in the budget to do that; no, you can’t rent a van for the youth group to go to Colorado; no, you can’t work with children if you haven’t completed all your Safe Church coursework. NO, NO, NO, NO, NO! They went around making sure all the elevator certificates were up to date, all the fire extinguishers up to code, and that no fire egress hallways were blocked. No one likes the “No” folks. But, truth be told, we’re important to keeping things in line, in order, and running efficiently.

And then came Jesus.

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus says “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Flesh them out, both literally AND figuratively! The original covenant wasn’t being cancelled or nullified; rather Jesus’ purpose was to reframe and restate God’s purpose in a way that might make it a little more simple and easy to grasp. What Jesus does in the “Great Commandment” is to shift the center of focus from all the laws and regulations of what we should and shouldn’t do, to the one great act of love – love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self. Righteousness can be found, not so much in following rules, but abiding in love.

In today’s gospel narrative, Jesus encounters again the “rules police.” The subject of today’s violation is cleanliness code, and what defiles the body. They’ve just crossed from Bethsaida to Gennesaret, where Jesus has been healing and feeding folks and calming disciples’ fears. They get to a quiet place, and he’s sharing some meal time, a little table fellowship, and relationship building, with his disciples. And the Pharisees find them, and set in with the rules and the laws. “How can you claim to be a prophet, the Son of God when you haven’t followed the cleanliness rules?” “You’re really going to eat, to put something into your body, without washing your hands first?” “You’ll defile yourself and all those you come into contact with!” Were the Pharisees concerns the disciples making themselves sick from eating with dirty hands, or was the concern for rules?

Jesus delivers a classic refrain that hearkens straight to the “Great Commandment:” “Listen to me, all of you (hypocrites), and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out that defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come...” He makes it crystal clear that it’s not what goes into the body that corrupts, rather what comes out of the human heart that either glorifies or defiles. The human heart is the seat where we either generate love, or generate hate. And Jesus is calling upon them, and us, to view law through the lens of love.

Which must be why our lectionary pairs this story with today’s First Testament reading from the original text of love, the Song of Songs, the bible’s most beautifully articulated poetry of love, between humans, between humans and their Creator, and between humans and the rest of Creation. This is the kind of love I believe that Jesus has in mind, the kind of love through which we must filter all of our worldly experience.

“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
And come away;  
For now the winter is past,  
The rain is over and gone.

## Sermon for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The flowers appear on the earth;  
The time of singing has come,  
And the voice of the turtledove  
Is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
And the vines are in blossom;  
They give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
And come away.”

This kind of love, this way of framing, taking in, and responding to the world around us, is so utterly different, so much more life-giving and life-affirming, than the ways that the laws are used by the Pharisees, and the many generations who follow.

Which brings me back to the “Great Commandment,” love. To love the Lord our God with all our hearts, and with all our souls, and with all our minds. To love our neighbors, as we love ourselves. That kind of love, that way of reframing reality, is truly transformational. And I believe that if we could, if we can accomplish this, we really can transform the world around us into the vision of reality that God has for us.

I’ve been hearing recently a lot of talk about what is becoming a popular catch-phrase, “Live your best life now.” And I think that if we can filter all that we say and do, all that comes out of us, all that which has the potential to corrupt and defile, or the potential to bless, through the “Great Commandment” of love, it really would be a different day.

So, what does that look like? How about we pass everything that we say and do through the “love” filter. Before it comes out of our mouths, or out of our hearts, or out of our actions, we ask ourselves, in that split second, “Is this thought, or action coming from the intention of love?”

When someone cuts us off in traffic, and we’re tempted to take the Lord’s name in vain, think, “Is this reaction in love?”

When we’re about to utter some opinion or criticism, can we ask, “Is this statement born in love?”

When we’re tempted to make some off-handed comment or action against our partner, our parents, or our kids, can we filter that action or reaction back through love?

Honoring God, becoming righteous, is not something that we do by following laws. Righteousness springs from God’s goodness toward us. The only appropriate response to God’s righteousness is love. Love really can change the world.

“Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:”

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Amen.

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



4th Stephen Toon



6th Henry Ayres



9th Steven Lee



10th Charles Mullins



12th Pam Liles



16th Paul McCright



22nd Emmett Sanchez-Brown



23rd Kenneth Goodwin



26th Fred Owen



29th Andy McCarthy

**Parish Office hours are 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM**

**Tuesdays through Fridays**

**214-352-0410**

**Emergency contact: Rev 'd Christopher Blake Thomas 214-352-0410 ext 6**

*(Please leave message with name, call back number, and brief explanation of urgency. Fr. Christopher will receive an urgent message to call back as soon as possible.)*

**The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop**

**The Right Rev. G. Wayne Smith, Bishop of Oversight (Missouri Diocese)**

**The Right Rev. George R. Sumner, Bishop of Dallas**

**The Right Rev. Michael Smith, Assistant Bishop of Dallas**

The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas, Rector

[christopher@thedoubter.org](mailto:christopher@thedoubter.org)

The Rev. Stephen J. Waller, Rector Emeritus

[doubtertom@thedoubter.org](mailto:doubtertom@thedoubter.org)

Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle, Theologian-in-Residence

[steve@thedoubter.org](mailto:steve@thedoubter.org)

Mr. Allen M. Junek, Seminarian-in-Residence

[allen@thedoubter.org](mailto:allen@thedoubter.org)

Mr Lee Corbin, Organist-Choirmaster

[music@thedoubter.org](mailto:music@thedoubter.org)

Mr. David Aston, Assistant Organist

[daston1227@aol.com](mailto:daston1227@aol.com)

Ms. Pam Liles, Parish Administrator

[pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org)

Ms. Paula McCormack, Controller

[paula@thedoubter.org](mailto:paula@thedoubter.org)

**The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle**

6525 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX 75209 - 214 352-0410

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

[www.facebook.com/thedoubter](https://www.facebook.com/thedoubter)

## **The 2021 Vestry**

**Joe DeuPree**

**Senior Warden**

Kathy Carson

Lisa Pearson

Rusty Rippamonti

Chancellor

David Hess

Ruth Woodward

Randy Hering

Randy Hering

Treasurer

**Michael Legacy**

**Junior Warden**

Andrew Besterman

Murray Followill

Paul McCright

Clerk