

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Mills River, North Carolina  
**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 13, 2026**

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space  
Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit



**PRELUDE**    *Near to the Heart of God w/Children of the Heavenly Father*  
*Brant Adams*

*A bell rings three times; the people stand.*

*Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.*

**PRESENTATION OF THE WORD**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**                      *GTG# 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement give.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant*                      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*                         And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for  
ever. Amen.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*GTG #402 How Lovely, Lord*

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place.  
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;  
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day  
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.  
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord  
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.

A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;  
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*                The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*                Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the

waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

*Reader*                The Word of the Lord.

*People*                Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 114

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

<sup>2</sup>**Judah became God's sanctuary \***  
**and Israel his dominion.**

<sup>3</sup>The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went back.

<sup>4</sup>**The mountains skipped like rams, \***  
**and the little hills like young sheep.**

<sup>5</sup>What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?

<sup>6</sup>**You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \***  
**you little hills like young sheep?**

<sup>7</sup>Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
<sup>8</sup>**Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \***  
**and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Reader</i> | The Word of the Lord. |
| <i>People</i> | Thanks be to God.     |

## SEQUENCE HYMN

## H #648 When Israel was in Egypt's land

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;  
 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;  
 3 They jour - neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;  
 4 Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

op - pressed so hard they — could not stand, let my peo-ple go.  
 to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.  
 and came at length to — Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.  
 and let us all in — Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

*Refrain*  
 Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;  
 tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
 according to Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "

For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave

released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

*Deacon*                      The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*                      Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE SERMON**    Rev. Tammy Bales

### **THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader* Sisters and brothers, the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.  
Let us pray to the Lord singing,

7

All shall be well. All shall be well.

All man - ner of things shall be well. All shall be well.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'All shall be well.' with a repeat sign at the end. The second staff, starting with a '7' indicating a second ending, continues the melody with the lyrics 'All man - ner of things shall be well. All shall be well.'

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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 PEACE

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

*People* And also with you.

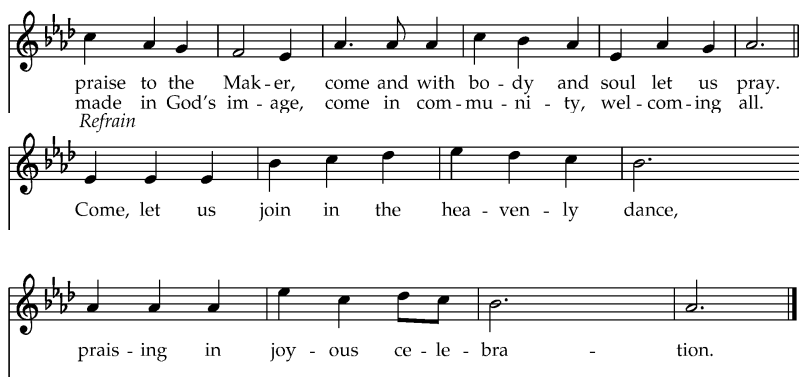
## GATHERING

*VF #109 People of God vs. 1-2*

1 Peo - ple of God, ga - ther to - ge - ther, come, let us  
2 Hear-ing God's word, heed-ing the mes - sage, come and re -

sing on this glo - rious day. Shout-ing a - broad  
joy as we an - swer the call. With one ac - cord,

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff continues the melody for the next two lines. The lyrics are written below the notes.



praise to the Mak-er, come and with bo - dy and soul let us pray.  
made in God's im - age, come in com - mu - ni - ty, wel - com - ing all.  
*Refrain*  
Come, let us join in the hea - ven - ly dance,  
prais - ing in joy - ous ce - le - bra - tion.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

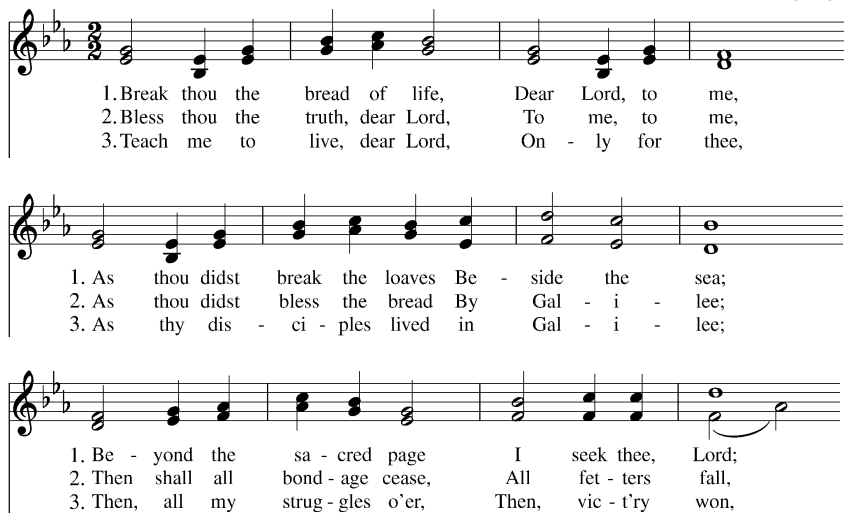
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*OFFERTORY God Leads Us*

*Arr. Lisa Hoekstra*

### PRESENTATION HYMN

*LEVAS #146 Break Thou the Bread of Life*



1. Break thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,  
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,  
3. Teach me to live, dear Lord, On - ly for thee,  
1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea;  
2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee;  
3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;  
1. Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord;  
2. Then shall all bond - age cease, All fet - ters fall,  
3. Then, all my strug - gles o'er, Then, vic - t'ry won,

1. My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing word!  
 2. And I shall find my peace, My all in all.  
 3. I shall be - hold thee, Lord, The liv - ing one.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

***People*** We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People*** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***By your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation

who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

*WLP 858 Holy, holy, holy*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. \*Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### FRACTION ANTHEM

***WLP # 876 The disciples knew the Lord Jesus***

*Antiphon*

*Cantor, then all*

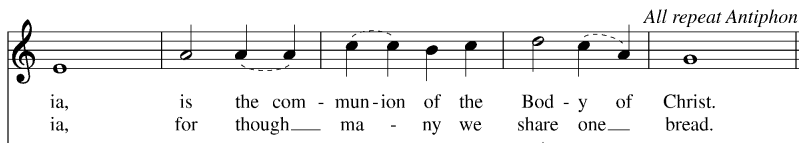
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing -

— of the bread.

*Fine* *Verses*

1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -
2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -

*All repeat Antiphon*



ia, is the com - mun - ion of the Bod - y of Christ.  
ia, for though — ma - ny we share one — bread.

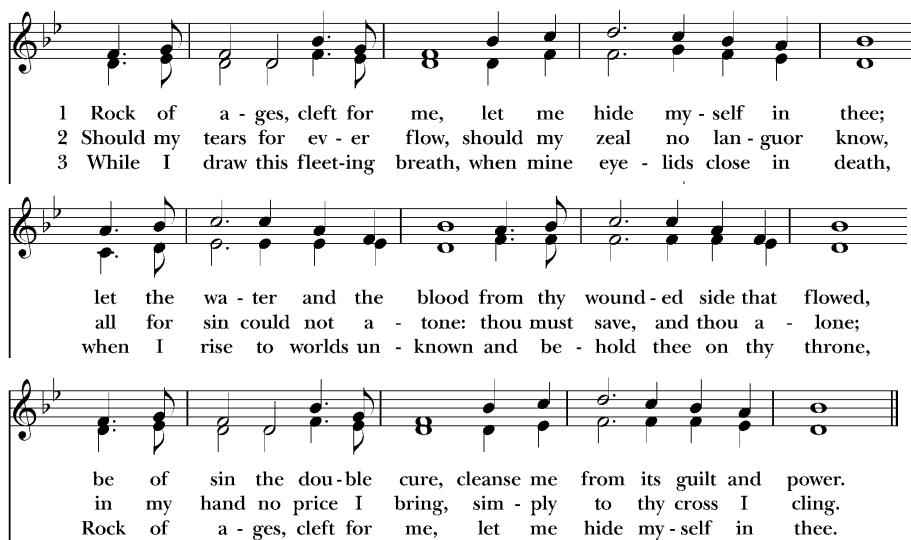
## COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*H #685 Rock of ages, cleft for me*



1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,  
3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,  
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;  
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## BLESSING

### RECESSIONAL HYMN *H #400* All Creatures of Our God and King Vs.1-3 and 7



- 1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voic-es, let us  
\*2 Great rush-ing winds and breez-es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a-  
\*3 Swift flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to  
4 Dear mo-ther earth, you day by day un-fold your bless-ings on our  
5 All you with mer-cy in your heart, for-giv-ing o-thers, take your  
\*6 And ev-en you, most gen-tle death, wait-ing to hush our fi-nal  
7 Let all things their cre-a-tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble-



- 1 sing: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Bright burn-ing  
2 loft, O—praise him, Al-le-lu-ia! Fair ris-ing  
3 hear, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Fire, so in-  
4 way, O—praise him, Al-le-lu-ia! All flowers and  
5 part, O—sing now: Al-le-lu-ia! All you that  
6 breath, O—praise him, Al-le-lu-ia! You lead back  
7 ness, O—praise him, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold-en beams, pale sil-ver moon that gen-tly gleams,  
2 morn, with praise re-joice, stars night-ly shin-ing, find a voice,  
3 tense and fierce-ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,  
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo-ry al-so show:  
5 pain and sor-row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:  
6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:  
7 Fa-ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi-rit, Three in One:



O praise him, O praise him, Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

*The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.*

## DISMISSAL

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Bible Study starts Sun. Sept. 13, 9:15 am

Blessing of the Backpacks, Sept.13 during church

Vestry meeting, Sun., Sept. 13, 12:15 pm

The Next Chapter: Practical guidance for aging with confidence, purpose, and hope, Tues., Sept. 15, 11:30 am

Grill and Chill, Thurs., Sept.,17, 6:00pm

Hendersonville Hunger Walk, Sat., Sept. 19, 8 am

Guest Choir from St. James, Charlotte, Sun., Sept. 20, 10:45 am

Blessing of the Animals, Sun., Oct. 4. 4:00 pm at Bold Rock

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