

Leaflet Info

**25th Sunday after Pentecost  
November 14, 2021**

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**Hymn 690**

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First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

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**Hymn 293**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**

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**Savior, like a shepherd lead us**

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**I sing a song of the saints of God**

## Hymns for Pentecost 25 – November 14, 2021

### Hymn 690 – Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and ever more,  
feed me now and ever more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength thy and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

### Hymn 708 – Savior, like a shepherd lead us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou has bought us, thine we are.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will;  
Do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

## Hymn 293 – I sing a song of the saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,  
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
they were all them saints of God and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love made them strong;  
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
and there's not any reason no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still,  
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops or at tea,  
for the saints of God are just folks like me, and I mean to be one too.

**Sermon preached by The Rev. Charles Rowins at St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, Maryland, 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, November 14, 2021.**

Later today, in a family ceremony, we will baptize Edie Beddard, daughter of Mary Kirk and Fred. Edie was born in February of this year, which means that mom and dad acted fairly quickly to schedule the baptism. They knew what they wanted for Edie.

Now, parents seek the welfare of children in all sorts of ways. There are protective measures of all sorts, including some medical and some spiritual. Baptism is a spiritual protective measure. It's not a vaccine. It's a beginning, an awareness, a reminder that the child, from the moment of conception, is not only entitled to the love of God, but is embraced by that love.

At age 1, the child doesn't understand or appreciate this Divine love. That understanding, that appreciation, will come in time, usually through a combination of self-awareness and the influence of others.

Mom and Dad are chief among the "others," but you and I, though not chiefs, share in the nurturing of Edie, by the examples we set in all sorts of ways. This example setting is at the heart of this morning's Psalm (**Psalm 16**).

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel ...  
I have set the Lord always before me ...  
My heart therefore is glad and my spirit rejoices ...  
My body also shall rest in hope ...

Children, Edie, learn from you and me. They see what we do, what we believe, how we handle challenges of all sorts, where we place our trust. We have an important role in the spiritual formation of young people. Today's reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (**Hebrews 10:22**) includes the phrase "full assurance of faith." Not shaky faith, not occasional faith, not empty faith, but "full assurance of faith."

The author of Hebrews reminds us to "consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds." And guess who will be watching, who will take in and process and apply in some manner. Edie for one.

Realizing our role in this spiritual formation is itself challenging work. That's why we gather. We need one another's "full assurance of faith." It's not just Edie who is watching. It's the whole world. We are witnesses to the Lord. And others are witnesses to us.

In today's gospel lesson (**Mark 13:4**), Peter, James, John and Andrew have gathered in the presence of Jesus. Their faith at this point is shaky. It is not "full assurance." "Tell us, Jesus, what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished."

The answer that Jesus gives is sobering. "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

Stated more succinctly: "There is hard work ahead." But, as Daniel notes in our first lesson today (**Daniel 12:3**), "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Our role in the life of Edie Beddard, and indeed in all lives, is to "shine like the brightness of the sky." If we are people of "full assurance," we will have done Edie and one another a huge favor. This is the favor that we promised to share in our baptism, or that that others – our Godparents – promised to share on our behalf.

All well and good, you might say, to promise. But keeping promises, even small ones, never mind big ones that we're talking about here, is never easy. Is there a secret to keeping promises?

Well, that's up to us individually. But a first step in this tough job is to remind ourselves of the promise itself. And where do we get that reminder. Enter today's **Collect**: "Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life."

That's right. We're talking Continuing Education. Keep going back to the basics. Keep reminding ourselves of what our responsibilities are, and what is the best way to fulfill those responsibilities. Holy Scriptures. The message to you and me is to keep them close at hand. Refer to them regularly. Share them with those you love and those you find hard to love.

Simplistic? In a way, yes. But in another way, not at all. Holy Scriptures are both broad and deep. But – and this is key – they tell a story, they paint a picture, they make a promise – that if received, with open and caring hearts, will change lives for the better.

Over the course of a lifetime, particularly in the early years, we give our children many books. And one of those books is often a Children's Bible. And my guess is that our children keep this Bible close at hand and eventually share it with their children. Not because the stories are easy to understand, but because, in a variety of ways, the stories speak to the presence of a loving God. So, sharing the Bible is a loving act in itself.

Our final hymn today is "I sing a song of the saints of God." There are three stanzas, each with a slightly different message. The first describes folks who were "brave and true" and thus good role models for us. The second stanza identifies more closely various folks who accepted this role model for themselves and at great cost fulfilled the model. And the third stanza suggests that we can be one of those brave and true folks.

Imagine raising a child without reference to a loving God as both a source of inspiration and fulfiller of a promise. And though Edie is not our child by birth, she is our responsibility. You and I "embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life." Imagine having that hope and not sharing it in some manner.

Good for you, Fred and Mary Kirk, and good for you Edie. And good for you all. And remember, Edie will be watching. Amen.

## Lessons for Pentecost 25 – November 14, 2021

**Collect:** 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.*

### **First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3**

At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 16**

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

*I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."*

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,

*upon those who are noble among the people.*

But those who run after other gods

*shall have their troubles multiplied.*

Their libations of blood I will not offer,

*nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.*

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;

*it is you who uphold my lot.*

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;

*indeed, I have a goodly heritage.*

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

*my heart teaches me, night after night.*

I have set the Lord always before me;  
*because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.*  
My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
*my body also shall rest in hope.*  
For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
*nor let your holy one see the Pit.*  
You will show me the path of life;  
*in your presence there is fullness of joy,*  
*and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.*

**Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-25**

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds nor more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful; And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*



## **Gospel: Mark 13:1-8**

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*