

# The Franciscan



October 2023

• **Diocesan Bishop** •

*The Rt Rev John Taylor*

• **Our Vicar** •

*The Rev. Sarah Kitch*  
[stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

• **The Bishop's Committee** •

- *Bishop's Warden*  
*Amy Brown*
- *Junior Warden*  
*Dan McCarty*
- *Finance*  
*Sam Anusiem*
- *Clerk/ Communications*  
*Cathy Grimes*
- *Service/Outreach*  
*Gerri Harrington*
- *Pastoral Care*  
*Tracy Hurst*
- *Worship*  
*Chris McCarty*

## From Our Vicar

...“ Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who is the day through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,  
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

... read article on pg. 2



## Blessing of the Animals

**Service: Sunday, October 1, 2023 - 10:15 am**

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**

280 Royal Ave, Simi Valley

[stfranchischurchofsimi.org](http://stfranchischurchofsimi.org)



**Everyone  
Welcome**

Please bring  
pets in carriers  
or on leashes

**Free  
to all**



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280 Royal Avenue, Simi Valley CA 93065

Email: [stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)

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

office- 805.526.5141

fax- 805.520.3819



# From Our Vicar...

As we turn into the “Fall” Season, we celebrate our Patronal Feast with the Blessing of the Animals and St Francis. What a joy to open our hearts with gratitude to God for God’s magnificent creation. The Canticle attributed to St Francis invites us into our own song of praise and thanksgiving.

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who is the day through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,  
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,  
And fair and stormy, all weather’s moods,  
by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,  
So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister,  
Mother Earth  
who sustains and governs us,  
producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.  
Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.

May we know God’s great peace as we enter into this season of Creationtide and Blessing of the Animals. We might even ask ourselves, what would be the places or particular aspects of nature that we might praise because of our experience? Would it be the ocean? Would it be trees? Would it be the desert? Where are the places you experience God in nature? Celebrate that today and give thanks and praise for our magnificent Creation.



*Sarah*

## Stay Connected With Us!

- Pastoral Care through the church office (805)526-5141
- Pastoral Care via email [stfrancis.simi@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.simi@gmail.com)
- Keep up through the St. Francis Website <https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/>
- Sunday Worship In-Person 10:15 AM & Live Streamed - links in the St. Francis Weekly
  - Stay connected through weekly services and activities made available

**Please remember St. Francis with your donations and pledge.**

*Secure online giving available through PayPal:*

<https://www.stfrancischurchofsimi.org/donate>

### Parish Healing Prayer Needs:

Barbara, Reina, Sylvia, Brody, Avalon, Shantel, Scott, Lee, Michael, Kim, Jean, Braydon, Hank, Fr. Steve, Al, Mary, Yvonne, Dee, Jeff, Jim, Bill & Leslie, Jan, David, Lee, Trish, Sue, Tony, Mark, Michele, Eric, Louise, Bob & family, Edith, Howard, Mary, Donna, J.D., Frances, Patrick, Margaret, Beverly, Margie, Alan, Kevin, Eve, Amy, Judy, Bernadette, Arianna, Pam, Sammie, Gerri, Steven, John, Tiffany, Leo, David, Henry, Cheryl, Ana, Susan, Peggy Pauline.

*With Faith comes power  
To live life to the fullest,  
Making dreams come true.*

*-Haiku by Diantha Ain*

ECW – Episcopal Church Women – Meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month in the church at 5:30pm. Please contact Sylvia Moya if interested in joining in service.

**Interested in Joining a Book Club?**

**Contact Chris McCarty for details.**



### Baby Shower Sundays

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month

Please bring your diapers, wipes and baby toiletries in support of the Baby Closet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month to help support the Baby Closet and their needs.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please speak with Gerri Harrington or Rev. Sarah.

The Baby Closet is open every

Tuesday and Thursday 10 am – 11am



# Stewardship

## What is the church?

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he opens his letter with the magnificent blessing that places us in true position to our Creator God. We are "blessed with every spiritual blessing," and then Paul recounts to us what every spiritual blessing is with seven verbs.

Blessed...chose...destined...bestowed...lavished...made known...gather up.

**Blessed:** we know the blessedness of God and then the blessing which is given to us because of God. We receive from God blessings of who God is! That changes our definition of blessing than what we might consider. We are blessed because we receive God's blessing of who God is.

**Chose:** With that blessing God chose us, before the foundation of the world. You and I are chosen. We are in on the action of creation and we are part of the destiny of that creation.

**Destined:** There it is, destined, adopted as children through Christ. We are part of the good pleasure of God's will to be an active part of the Kin-dom Plan, from the very inception of Creation. "When God destines us, God marks out the boundaries in which we live the purposed life to which God appoints us."

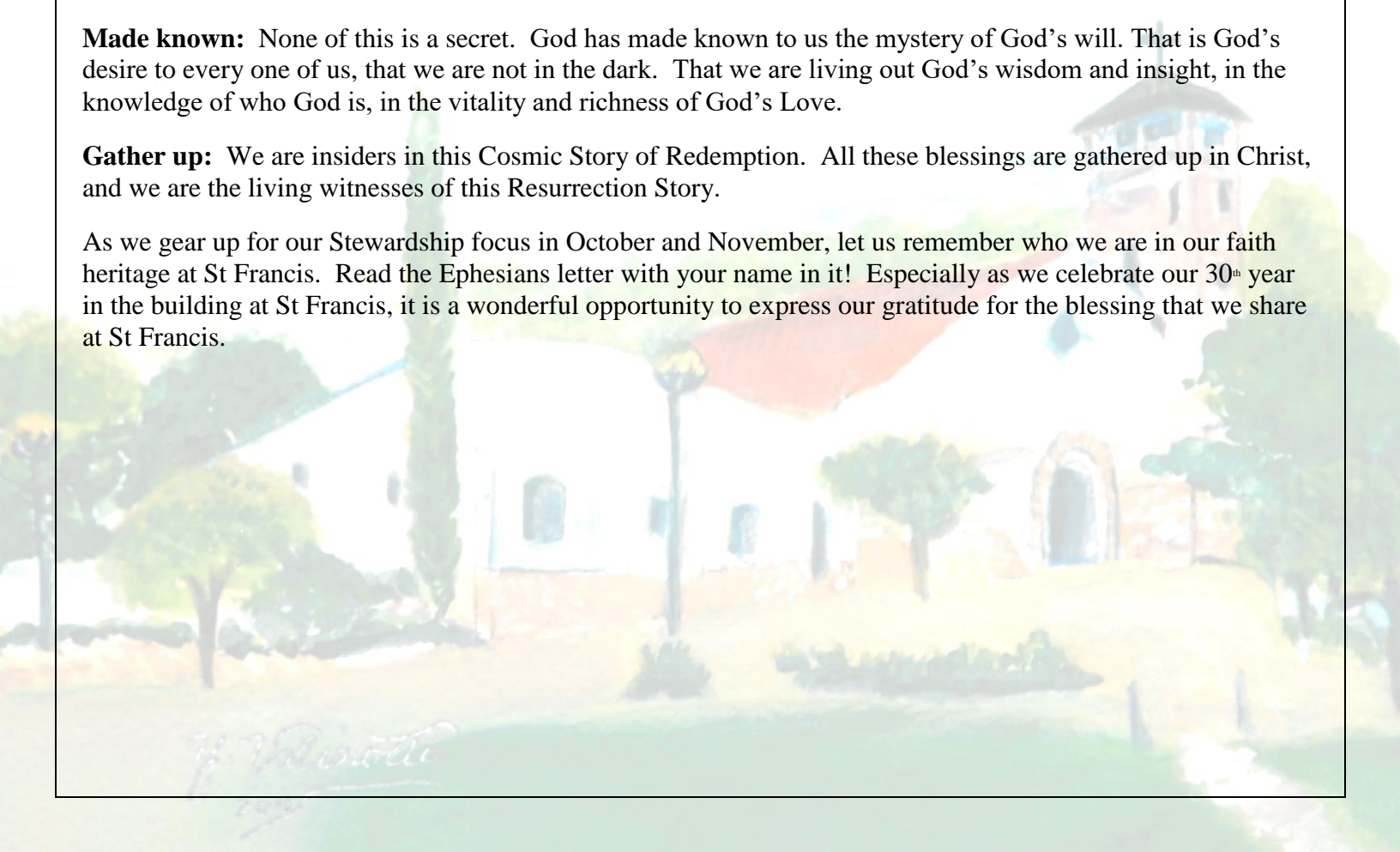
**Bestowed:** Grace has been freely bestowed on us, that we walk in throughout our life, in the ordinary, everyday. Bestow is a noun that Grace is verbalized. Grace, one of the biggest blessings and gifts given to us to say you and I are GRACED!!!

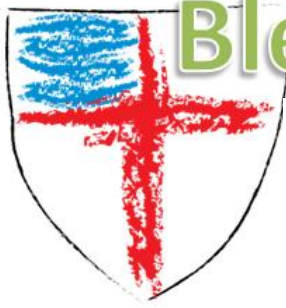
**Lavished:** Ever found yourself just lavishing in a cool swimming pool, the ocean, a lake, where you have nothing better to do than just float and be surrounded by the water on a beautiful day? So that's the kind of grace that is lavished on us, and surrounds us, encompasses us, and we are recipients of God extravagance, God's Grace.

**Made known:** None of this is a secret. God has made known to us the mystery of God's will. That is God's desire to every one of us, that we are not in the dark. That we are living out God's wisdom and insight, in the knowledge of who God is, in the vitality and richness of God's Love.

**Gather up:** We are insiders in this Cosmic Story of Redemption. All these blessings are gathered up in Christ, and we are the living witnesses of this Resurrection Story.

As we gear up for our Stewardship focus in October and November, let us remember who we are in our faith heritage at St Francis. Read the Ephesians letter with your name in it! Especially as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year in the building at St Francis, it is a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude for the blessing that we share at St Francis.





# Blessing of the Animals

**Service: Sunday, October 1, 2023 - 10:15 am**

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**

280 Royal Ave, Simi Valley

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**Everyone  
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**Free  
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Animals have always been an important part of our lives and the world. More than just livestock, they are companions and members of our families. God created animals for our partnership and through animals, God teaches us about love, trust and devotion. For this reason, we gather today to ask God to bless our pets. We pray that God will keep them safe and healthy. We pray also that we will uphold our part in caring for and protecting them. As God has loved us and provided for us, so may we share that love with these animals and with all creation.

St. Francis rejoiced in all the works of the hand of God, and saw in all things their life-giving reason and cause. In beautiful things he saw Beauty itself, all things were to him good. He forbade the Brothers to cut down the whole tree when they cut wood, so it might have the hope that in their proper times the greenness of the grass and the beauty of the flowers might announce the beauty of God in all things. He removed from the road little worms, lest they be crushed under foot; and he ordered that honey and the best wines be set out for the bees, lest they perish from want in the cold winter. He called all animals by the name of "brother", though among all kinds of animals he preferred the gentle.





***St Francis “Hospitality” is an opportunity to spend a few minutes together, after service over a cup of coffee to connect, and say hello.***

*Want to celebrate an anniversary, birthday or special occasion with your church family?*

***You’re welcome any time.***

***Feel free to bring a plate of cookies or fruit, as you wish.***

***ALL are welcome to attend and ALL are invited to participate.***

*Coffee will be on...*



At left – “Bishop John Harvey Taylor displays his first-pitch ball at the 2022 Episcopal Night at Dodger Stadium.” Photo: Janet Kawamoto –Article by EN Staff via diocesesla.org dated: June 21, 2023

**Our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. John Taylor will visit St Francis of Assisi Simi on October 15, 2023 for the 10:15am Sunday service.**

Potluck-Luncheon to follow service, outside on the Patio. Sign-up via email or at Sunday Service.

# *2023 Autumnal Equinox Drumming Circle*

Well attended and a fun night, led by Joyce Stephenson, Sergio Lopez and Rev Sarah Kitch, it was a beautiful evening out in nature with many drums of all different varieties, a fire pit and visiting hummingbirds. Some photos below. More to come on the St Francis Facebook page.











# October 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	<i>Blessing of the Animals</i>	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	<i>Service with The UCC</i>	Reuben A.	Suzanne L.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.
LEM	David K. Tracy H.	Tracy H.	David K. Chrissy B.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Lisa N.
Usher / Greeter	Reuben A. Ted W.	Rebecca S.	Ted W. Reuben A.	Rebecca S	Joe Z.
Altar Guild	Chrissy B. David K.	Cathy G.	Chrissy B. David K.	Chris M.	Tracy H.
Preaching	Rev Sarah	Rev Sarah	Bp.Rt. Rev. JohnTaylor	David K.	Rev Sarah

# November 2023 Schedule for Holy Ministry

	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	
Lector (O.T./Psalm)	Kerri-Jo H.	Eden S.	Bernadette	Susan S.	
Lector (Epistle/P.O.P)	Suzanne L.	Reuben A.	Chrissy B.	Gerri H.	
LEM	Lisa N.	Rob W. Kristin W.	Tracy H.	Chrissy B.	
Usher / Greeter	Reuben A.	Rebecca S.	Ted W.	Joe Z.	
Altar Guild	Chris M.	Cathy G.	Gerri H.	Chrissy B.	
Preaching	David K.	Rev Sarah	David K.	Rev. Sarah	

Please let the Church Office know if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day. Thank you for Serving!

If you have interest in serving in the church, please speak to Rev Sarah or contact the church office.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Rev Sarah Kitch, Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music <b>Blessing of the  Animals</b> Samaritan GALA 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>2</b>  3pm To-go (boxed) Community Dinner 8 pm Men's AA	<b>3</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	<b>4</b>  10am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>5</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>6</b>  7 pm AA PH	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Rev. Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>9</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>10</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA	<b>11</b>  10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>12</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>13</b>  7 pm AA PH	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Rt.Rev. John HarveyTaylor Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist with Music  <b>Bishop's Visit</b> 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>16</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>17</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	<b>18</b>  10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>19</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>20</b>  7 pm AA PH	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> David Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist  <b>Baby Shower  Sunday</b> 12pm BC Mtg 6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>23</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>24</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH	<b>25</b>  10 am Healing & Eucharist Service  7:30 pm AA PH	<b>26</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  7 pm NA Clare Rm	<b>27</b>  7 pm AA PH	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Rev.Sarah Kitch Preaching 10:15 am Eucharist  6:30 Men's AA PH	<b>30</b>  8 pm Men's AA	<b>31</b>  Baby Closet 10-11  6:30 pm Women AA 7 pm AA PH				



**SAVE THE DATE:** Interfaith Thanksgiving – November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm @ UCC church



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## Newsletter – October 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church  
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TO:



**Sunday Service:**

10:15 am

**Wednesday Service:**

10:00 am Healing

**Blessing of the Animals:**

October 1, 2023

10:15 am

**Bishop's Visit:**

October 15, 2023

10:15 am

