



# THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021  
8 am

**ST. DUNSTAN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Welcome BACK to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!*  
*Please silence your phones and wear your mask while indoors.*

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## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Prelude** Allegro from Autumn

*Antonio Vivaldi, arr. R. Novegno*

**Priest** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**People** 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.

**People** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Collect of the Day** *The people stand or kneel.*

**Priest** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Priest** 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.**

### **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The servant who speaks for the Lord and suffers persecution, but still trusts in God's help and vindication. This is the third of the "servant songs" which come from a period late in Israel's exile. The servant might be thought to be the faithful of Israel, the prophet himself, or another historical or idealized figure. The people are weary and tired of the Lord's calling, but the servant steadfastly continues. Christians have long perceived in these words a foretelling of Jesus' mission.*

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 116:1-8 *Dilexi, quoniam***

*An offering of thanksgiving and praise by one who has been rescued from death.*

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*  
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord \*  
in the land of the living.

### **James 3:1-12**

*The community is reminded that one who instructs others will be held to a high standard, and such a position should only be aspired to by those well-formed in faith. Of particular concern are habits of speech. The tongue is compared to a small rudder able to control a large ship at sea. There is great danger in an uncontrolled tongue, and many forms of careless speech are enumerated. The Christian must learn self-discipline in order that God may be glorified.*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## **Mark 8:27-38**

*Peter recognizes that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus then describes the true nature of the ministry of the Son of Man and what it means to follow in his way. The passage reminds us that during Jesus' lifetime and afterward there was speculation about his role. Some saw him as a kind of re-embodiment of John the Baptist or another prophet. Peter is called "Satan" because his words are a temptation to turn away from the suffering and death which come before resurrection. Disciples must also learn that the true self and true life are found by those who will let themselves be lost for the sake of Jesus and the gospel.*

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*After the sermon a brief silence is kept.*

The Rev. Laurel Coote

The Nicene Creed *All Stand.*

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.

Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.

Who 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

*from* Intercessions for the Christian People

*The people stand or kneel*

Leader Inspired by the Spirit, we now offer our Sunday prayers to God in the name of Jesus Christ, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the fulfillment of the mission of the church,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For the liberation of the children of God from the bondage of fear,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For the consolation of all those who struggle with doubts or disbelief,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For renewed witness to the gospel among Christian people in positions of public trust, let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For our assembly as we hand on the faith of our ancestors from one generation to another, let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For the sick and the suffering, the lonely and the dying, [especially N.],  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We remember those who have died, [including N.],  
let us pray to the Lord:

**People Lord, have mercy.**

Leader In the communion of the Holy Spirit, with Mary, the mother of the Son of God, with St. Dunstan, St. Andre and with all the saints in light, let us commend our lives and the lives of one another to the Lord. **Amen.**

Priest Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Confession of Sin** *Standing or kneeling. Silence may be kept.*

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*We pause for a moment of reflection as we prepare to acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God.*

**People** **M**ost 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.**

**The Absolution**

Priest **A**lmighty 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** *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

*The people exchange the peace with one another.*

**Announcements** *All are seated.*

**The Offertory**

Priest Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Blessed are you, God of all creation;  
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory.

**People Blessed be God forever.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

Priest The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**People Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel*

Priest We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.



On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**People** We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory

**Priest** And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**People** **O**ur 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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

Priest **W**e break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION.**

When directed by the usher, come forward to the communion station.  
Please keep your mask on with your hands extended to receive the Host.  
The bread is received in the open palm.

Once you have moved away from the Minister,  
you may remove one side of your mask, consume the Host, and replace your mask.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing may indicate this by  
crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

## **The Post-Communion Prayer**

Priest Let us pray.

People **E**ternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as  
living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us  
spiritually with 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.

## The Blessing

Priest **L**ife is short.  
And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts  
of those who travel the way with us.  
So be swift to love.  
Make haste to be kind.  
And may the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us,  
and who travels with us be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Priest **G**o in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People **T**hanks be to God.

*The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.  
All are welcome to enjoy fellowship with one another outside the church during coffee hour.*



*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God*

*St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation  
and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity,  
culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.*

*Sign up today to receive*

### St. Dunstan's weekly eNews

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting [stdcv.org/subscribe](http://stdcv.org/subscribe) and entering your email address.

### This week's guest organist

This week we welcome Cathryn Wilkinson to the bench. Welcome back, Cathryn!

### Weekly Bulletins available electronically

Whether you want to save the environment by using less paper, like the idea of reading on your device, want to see what's coming up or what is past, our weekly worship bulletins are available as a PDF online at [stdcv.org/bulletins](http://stdcv.org/bulletins)

THE 9:30 SUNDAY SERVICE PROCEEDINGS  
July 26, 2015  
10:00 AM

Worship in St. Dunstan's! We are glad to have you!  
If you are unable to attend in person, please contact the church office for more information.  
[stdcv.org](http://stdcv.org)

**HYMNARIAL**  
Hymns of praise and thanksgiving to God our Father

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

All readings are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.

**Psalm 124** (Antiphonal) *Psalm 124* (Antiphonal)  
Psalm 124:1-8  
Psalm 124:9-10  
Psalm 124:11-17

**Proclamation of the Gospel** (Antiphonal)  
John 1:1-9  
John 1:10-18

**Prayer** (Antiphonal)  
Prayer for the World  
Prayer for the Church  
Prayer for the People  
Prayer for the World

**Hymns**  
Hymn 124  
Hymn 124  
Hymn 124

**Observation of the Sacrament** (Antiphonal)  
The Lord's Supper  
The Lord's Supper  
The Lord's Supper

*Informational meeting today!*  
**2023 Holy Land Pilgrimage**

I am excited to share with you that St. Dunstan's, in collaboration with St. Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, is offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, scheduled for February 10 - 21, 2023. If you have ever longed to visit the Holy Land, to see and experience the places where Jesus was born, lived, died and was resurrected, and to have your faith brought to life, then mark your calendar to attend this information session. Led by Qumri Pilgrimages Ltd., this journey offers the opportunity to become immersed in our rich Christian faith, and to deepen your own spiritual journey. Rev. Laurel will share details about the journey including a sample itinerary, accommodations, transportation and anticipated costs to participate, as well as gather names of those who are interested in attending. Interested but unable to attend, contact Rev. Laurel directly.

**St. Dunstan's Foundation  
Grant Deadline, September 30**

St. Dunstan's Foundation is accepting applications for funding through our grant program. The deadline for applying is September 30th. Information, downloadable fliers, and applications are available at [stdcv.org/foundation](http://stdcv.org/foundation).

Questions can be sent to [foundation@stdcv.org](mailto:foundation@stdcv.org)

**Zoom Compline,  
Mondays at 5:30 pm**

Please consider joining us for prayer as we give thanks to God for the day that is past and place our hope and faith in God for the night.

We are currently using the Order for Compline from the New Zealand Prayer book, which can be downloaded at [stdcv.org/bulletins](http://stdcv.org/bulletins).

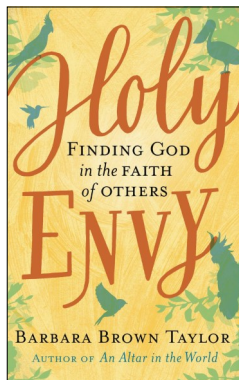
**Join Zoom Compline**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85070384899>  
Meeting ID: [850 7038 4899](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85070384899)

## Discussion Group Sundays, 9 am

We continue to discuss Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor.

**We are meeting in-person in the Guild Room with masks.**



## *Feast of St. Francis celebrated with* **Blessing of the Animals** **September 26**

All creatures -- great and small, stuffed and animate -- are invited to bring your humans to church to watch you receive a blessing when we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, September 26th.

The 8 am Holy Eucharist will be indoors, and the 10 am Holy Eucharist will be celebrated outdoor with guitar-led music.

*Imagining Session: Sept 19*

## **Outreach Imagining Session**

We are living in a time of great need: people in our local communities, in our state, nation and throughout the world are struggling, are suffering, and could benefit from some assistance. Our present involvement with — St. Andre's in Haiti, Nancy's Project, I-Help program, has been life-changing, rewarding, and valued for all involved.

Maybe you're aware of a need in the world? Maybe there is a ministry that you've always wanted to explore? If you do, or if you're just curious, join us Sun, Sept 18 at 11:30 in Brock Hall as we wonder and imagine together how God might be calling us into new ways of serving our neighbors.

## **Rev. Laurel to be Instituted** **September 26, 4 pm**

Join us as we welcome Bishop Lucinda for the Institution of Rev. Laurel as our Rector.

If you would like to help with the reception, contact Mystery Chastain or the church office.

### **Rector's Sabbath**

Rev. Laurel is observing her sabbath day on Fridays. Please respect this important time away except for pastoral emergencies. She will reply to any messages on Saturday.

## Marge Bennett Memorial September 18, 2 pm

Marge's family extends an open invitation for you to join them in celebration of Marge's life with a committal ceremony in the columbarium followed by a catered celebration with live music in our back yard.



## Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests

For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel [via email](#) or on her cell [310-562-5746](tel:310-562-5746). And you can always leave a message on the Pastoral Care line at church [831-624-6646](tel:831-624-6646) ext 5.

Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests in this time when many are in crisis. Please email the DOK's [Elizabeth Buche](#), who manages the Daughters' prayer list. The Daughters pray for members of our parish and for many other individuals daily.

## Dedicate Altar Flowers

This is a lovely and meaningful way to give Glory to God in celebration of a birthday, or in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. The cost of the flowers is \$20, but some give more. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Altar Flowers" in the memo.

You can check available Sundays on our Master Calendar at [stdcv.org/calendar](http://stdcv.org/calendar). (hint: if you see ". . ." before "The Altar Flowers", that Sunday is available.)

*Help us know you by*

## Filling out a Pew Card

If you are visiting us, are new to Saint Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

## Deadline for eNews, Bulletin

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to [office@stdcv.org](mailto:office@stdcv.org) by midnight Sunday.

# THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY—THURSDAY, 9 AM—12 NOON

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## Sunday, September 12

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Discussion Group  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)  
11:00 am Coffee Hour  
Holy Land Pilgrimage Info Mtg

## Monday, September 13

5:30 pm Zoom Compline

## Tuesday, September 14 ~ Polling Place

8:00 am Staff meeting  
4:00 pm St. Dunstan's Foundation Mtg  
7:30 pm AA

## Wednesday, September 15

10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  
4:30 pm Haiti Team Meeting  
6:30 pm Pre-Convention Deanery Mtg

## Thursday, September 16

4:00 pm I-Help

## Friday, September 17

## Saturday, September 18

2:00 pm Marge Bennett Memorial

## Sunday, September 19

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Discussion Group  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)  
11:00 am Coffee Hour  
Outreach Imagining Session

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View the entire parish calendar [stdcv.org/calendar](http://stdcv.org/calendar)

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Pinky McCammon	12 Sarah Pease	18 Judy Hill
3 Duncan Murray	12 JJ Bohlman	19 Lois Kettel
3 Tim Condon	14 Michael Carter	20 Broden Murray
4 Georgia Byrne	14 Marcia Lockwood	23 Ella Duddy
7 Marikay Morris	14 Juju Lewis	25 Eva Kasdan
8 Ross Quattlebaum	15 Dick Habermann	27 Margo Fuselier
11 Sharon Tiner	17 Kate Rule	29 Jan Pina



## **WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE**

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

## **WHAT WE ARE FOR**

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

## **WHAT WE ARE AGAINST**

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

## **WHAT WE VALUE**

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

## **WELCOME!**

*Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.*

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## **St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**

28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel, California 93923

(831) 624-6646 ✉ [stdcv.org](http://stdcv.org)