



Trinity Topics

October 2018

Phone = (217) 245-5901

info@trinitychurchjax.org

Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



**“O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.”—Psalm 104:24**

People today look out of their homes and offices and, with a feeling of resignation, see a world that is random and unfeeling. Skeptics tell us that the universe was created through violence and random evolution, and is governed by unfeeling laws. They say human beings are insignificant, infinitesimal parts of an unfathomably vast cosmos that doesn't note our presence and wouldn't remark on our passing. The good news of the Gospel of Christ is that this is not so—our world is not meaningless or uncaring, but is in fact filled with the love of God and governed by his generous providence. All things and all God's creatures have something to tell us about the love and majesty of God. This was the conviction of St. Francis. The great hymn Francis left to us today, *All Creatures of Our God and King*, portrays all of creation as a great concert in which every one of us has a part, from “Brother Sun” to “Sister Moon,” to even “most gentle Death.”

This is getting to the heart of what I mean when I call all of us to see that the world is biblical. We Christians see the same world that everyone else sees, but knowing the Gospel of Christ we know its true significance. In a biblical perspective, the Big Bang at the beginning of Creation goes from a random event to an act of love. In the world of the Gospel, foreigners and strangers become neighbors, even our brothers and sisters. In the Gospel, poverty becomes blessed openness to God's care. In the Gospel, Francis' own agonizing death became an opportunity for sanctification. He believed his suffering pushed him to know the God of Love more deeply. In a biblical perspective ordinary men and women become signs of God's coming Kingdom, that is, they become saints. Finally, animals like our pets can become signs of God's love for us.

It was his profound reverence for all of God's creation, even the animals in it, that made Francis the patron saint of animals and the environment. He could see the sacredness in all things. This gave him both a love for creation and its animals as well as a sense of responsibility for them. We will celebrate this reality by introducing to our parish life the venerable Christian tradition of blessing animals on the Sunday after St. Francis Day. This blessing service is first of all a recognition that these creatures are marvelous works of God. As God's creatures we can in some way encounter God's love for us in them.

Our **Feast of St. Francis Service** will be on **Sunday, October 7, at 4 pm** on the west porch of the church. Bring your dogs, cats, bunnies, boa constrictors, or whatever creature you would like to be blessed. Please bring them on leashes or in their crates—the blessing of the animals is always a rowdy and raucous celebration. Even those without pets are invited to offer thanksgiving for the love of God they encounter in creation. We will also unveil the beautiful new statue of St. Francis that Betty Aldridge has generously given to the parish, which will eventually be installed on a base in the church yard. Let us come together to praise God for all his creatures!

Fr. Zach Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part VII

England’s definitive break with the Pope came in 1534, when Parliament made King Henry VIII the Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England. The Royal Court was cleared of dissenters by 1535, including Chancellor Sir Thomas More and Bishop of Rochester John Fisher, both revered as saints in the Roman Catholic Church today. The first move against the old order was the dissolution of hundreds of England’s smaller monasteries in 1536. This was a somewhat ambiguous act—for the time being Catholics could still hope this recent unpleasantness was just another argument between Crown and Papacy. Though the scale of this round of closures was unprecedented, the Pope did occasionally let kings seize the lands of defunct monasteries so long as the Church got a cut of the proceeds. The first round of dissolution left the largest monasteries intact and served the pragmatic end of making the Crown enormous amounts of badly needed money by selling seized lands to a newly loyal class of English society—the gentry. English manor houses with names including the words *abbey*, *priory*, or *grange* likely originated as dissolved monasteries. It also resulted in the phenomenon of *lay incumbency*. The purchase of a monastery came with the monastery’s right to appoint priests to parish churches attached to that monastery—giving the laity unprecedented power over the Church.

This column is the seventh in the monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

Something to Think About on Sunday Morning

(taken from St. John’s Decatur newsletter)

The sunlight filters through the stained-glass windows.
The lights are gleaming through the open doorway.
The ushers are here and waiting expectantly.
The sanctuary has been dusted and vacuumed.
The worship booklets have been prepared and stapled.
The Altar Guild members have spent time and effort readying the altar.
The flowers are arranged and welcoming.
The candles have been lit.
An air of expectation is in every corner.
The organist plays intricate, powerful music that has been selected just for this day.
The choir has learned the service songs and is ready with an expressive anthem.
The priest has developed a thoughtful, knowledgeable sermon.
Someone has gotten up early and prepared a treat for coffee hour.
The pews are waiting.
The host is waiting.
God’s mercy is waiting.
All for you.
All for you.

The Readings for the Sundays in October

	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
October 7	Job 1:1, 2:1-10	26	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
October 14	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	22:1-15	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
October 21	Job 38:1-7, 34-41	104:1-9,25,37b	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
October 28	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	34	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52

News & Announcements

Trinity Fellowship

It's never too late to start attending! All are welcome to attend Trinity Fellowship. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month, September through May. From 7 until 7:30 p.m., dessert is served. Then from 7:30 until 8:30, we discuss the **history of Trinity Church** and look through files of old photos and documents.

Thank You!

For the second year we offered meaningful **activities for children** during the 10 o'clock service in the summer. It was a success due to the generosity and dedication of those who volunteered.

We thank K-Lou Ashmore, Leah Brooks, Janet Cisne, Melissa Evans, Greta Hardwick, Donna Metcalf, Adah Mitchell, Marian Moss, Jo Ann Nelson, Allison Scott, Deanna Tavender, Alice Tracey, and Ginda Woodruff. These ladies were willing to spend some time with our children and to help them learn more about the Bible by sharing stories and leading activities.

We would like feedback from these leaders and parents of the children who participated to see what we should plan for the summer of 2019.

Jacksonville Area Council of Churches

Over five hundred **welcome packets** were distributed to new students at MacMurray and Illinois College. In each packet was a flyer about our church and the various churches in Jacksonville who contributed to the packets. Thank you to all who contributed items for these packets. Members of the JACC Board have decided that this will be repeated in 2019.

Outreach

We received a report from the **Take It To The Streets** coordinators at Grace UMC. They thanked us for our food and monetary donations. They averaged making 375 lunches daily this year. (Last year it was 150.) They delivered to five sites, 40 families at home, the summer school program, and the Salvation Army's day camp.

Please remember that our container for donations to the Jacksonville Food Center is always located in the upper hallway. We deliver our donations at the end of each month.

Congratulations!

Levi Haley and Jill Friedrich welcomed their son, **Hugh Robert Michael**, on August 9. He is the grandson of Rob and Lisa Haley. Hugh was born on his great-grandmother Effie's birthday!

Nick Cisne and Jordan Barrett welcomed their daughter **Coralee Rose**, on September 9. She is the granddaughter of Jim and Janet Cisne. Welcome to the world, Coralee!

Joey and Margaret Rathert welcomed their daughter, **Rae Evelyn**, on September 27. She is the granddaughter of Jim and Paula Herget. Congratulations to All!

Emily Grace Farmer, a student at College of Wooster, Ohio, is taking her first-semester, junior year, abroad. In an expanded program, she will be taking courses in Urban Studies, based in Copenhagen, Denmark. The classes will also include study trips to other notable European cities. Emily is the daughter of David Farmer and Deb Mandell, and granddaughter of MarySusan and Dean Farmer.

BIG BIRTHDAY!

October 14 will be **Margaret Bellatti's** 100th Birthday! Her family has asked that people send her birthday cards in care of Trinity Church. (We will then deliver them.) They are hoping to have 100 cards for her 100th birthday.

****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Trinity Fellowship

This year we are studying
the history of our own *Trinity Church!*

Tuesday, October 2
7:00 pm

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
is October 4.

We will have a
Blessing of the Animals
on Sunday, **October 7, 4:00 pm**
on the west porch and in the churchyard.

ECW

Build Your Own Salad Supper

Monday, October 8
5:30 pm

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, October 16

7:00 pm

Enclosed in this mailing is your **2018**
pledge statement as of September 25,
2018, if you made a pledge.

Pledge letters for **2019**
will be mailed in mid-October.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2018

SUNDAYS:

October 7:

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

October 14:

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

October 21:

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

October 28:

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

WEEKDAYS AT 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 3

Wednesday, October 10

Wednesday, October 17:

Thursday, October 18:

St. Luke

Tuesday, October 23:

St. James of Jerusalem

Wednesday, October 24

Monday, October 29:

St. Simon & St. Jude

Wednesday, October 31