



ST. CATHERINE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**The Founding of a Church: Ground Breaking
June 14, 2026**

Welcome to St. Catherine's

We are so thankful that you have come to celebrate this momentous occasion in the life of Saint Catherine's Episcopal Church in Chelsea. The story of Saint Catherine's started in 2007. As part of the Diocese of Alabama's Decade of Evangelism, Saint Catherine's was started by a group of about twenty Episcopalians meeting for a bible study and, in the intervening twenty years, has grown into the faithful, vibrant community it is today through the prayer and praise and efforts of so many people. Services have been held at Chelsea Middle School, in the K-Springs Church of God building, and in the buildings and on the land on which you currently stand.

Many lay people and clergy have been and continue to be a part of this wonderful community, and they have all made today possible through prayer and giving. We are excited to remember and celebrate them as we prayerfully break ground on our new nave. Please continue to pray for Saint Catherine's as we begin this new chapter of our life together!

Serving Today

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, *President*
Rev'd Dillon Green, *Litanist*

Chris Stricklin, *Crucifer*
Leila Phillips & Olivia Kennedy,
Torchbearers

Wanda Wheeler, *Lector*
Julie Kennedy, *Greeter*
Jim Cawthon, *Technology*

The Liturgy begins in the nave. As the Litany for the Church is sung, the people go in procession outside to the site of the new nave.

The Litany for the Church, *sung in procession*

<i>Officiant</i> [Musical notation: a thick black bar on a staff]	<i>People</i> [Musical notation: a staff with six notes]
O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,	Have mer - cy up - on us.
<i>Officiant</i> [Musical notation: a thick black bar on a staff]	<i>People</i> [Musical notation: a staff with six notes]
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	Have mer - cy up - on us.
<i>Officiant</i> [Musical notation: a thick black bar on a staff]	<i>People</i> [Musical notation: a staff with six notes]
O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful,	Have mer - cy up - on us.
<i>Officiant</i> [Musical notation: a thick black bar on a staff]	<i>People</i> [Musical notation: a staff with six notes]
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,	Have mer - cy up - on us.

Litanist O Christ the Rock, on which your people grow into a spiritual house;



People **Defend your Church, we pray.**

Litanist O Christ the Vine, of which your people are the branches;

People **Defend your Church, we pray.**

Litanist O Christ the Head of the Body, of which your people are the members;

People **Defend your Church, we pray.**

Litanist O Christ our Prophet, you teach the way of God in truth;

People **Defend your Church, we pray.**

Litanist O Christ our Priest, you offered yourself upon the Cross, and now make intercession for us to the Father;

People **Defend your Church, we pray.**

Litanist O Christ our Sovereign, you reign over all the earth, and make us citizens of your heavenly realm;

People **Defend your Church, we pray.**

Litanist O Christ, you sent the Holy Spirit upon the Church, clothing it with power from on high;

People **Defend your Church, we pray.**

Litanist That we may be devoted to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers,



People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist That we may make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist That you will fulfill your promise to be with us always, even to the ages of ages,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist That you will sustain all members of your holy Church, that in our vocation and ministry we may truly and devoutly serve you,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist That you will bless the clergy of your Church, that they may diligently preach the Gospel and faithfully celebrate the holy Sacraments,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist That you will heal the divisions in your Church, that all may be one,
as you and the Father are one,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist Arise, O God, maintain your cause;



People **Do not forget the lives of the poor.**

Litanist Look down from heaven, behold and tend this vine;



People **Preserve what your right hand has planted.**

Litanist Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;



People **Let your faithful people sing with joy.**

Presider Let your continual mercy cleanse and defend your Church, O Lord;
and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect
and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Hymn 518

Christ is made the sure foundation

Descant

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of


1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.
 help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Reading

Genesis 28:10-17

Reader

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Right Rev'd Glenda S. Curry

While the following antiphon and psalm are being said, persons appointed stretch tow cords across the space, from the northeast to the southwest, and from the southeast to the northwest, securing them to the stakes, thus forming the Greek letter X (chi), the symbol both of the cross and of the name of Christ.

Psalm 132:1-9, *spoken in unison*

Antiphon Let us go to God's dwelling place; let us fall upon our knees
before his footstool.

- 1 LORD, remember David, *
and all the hardships he endured;
- 2 How he swore an oath to the LORD *
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of
Jacob:
- 3 "I will not come under the roof of my
house,*
nor climb up into my bed;
- 4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *
nor let my eyelids slumber;
- 5 Until I find a place for the LORD, *
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- 6 "The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.
- 7 Let us go to God's dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his
footstool."
- 8 Arise, O LORD, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength.

9 Let your priests be clothed with
righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.

Antiphon Let us go to God's dwelling place; let us fall upon our knees
before his footstool.

*During the following antiphon and psalm, person appointed stretch the third cord completely
around the four stakes, enclosing the area. They move clockwise, beginning and ending at the
southeast corner. The ministers and people may follow in procession.*

Psalm 48:1-3, 7-13, *spoken in unison*

Antiphon How wonderful is God in his holy places! The God of Israel,
giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

- 1 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; *
in the city of our God is his holy hill.
- 2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the
hill of Zion, *
the very center of the world and the city of the great
King.
- 3 God is in her citadels; *
he is known to be her sure refuge.
- 7 As we have heard, so have we seen,
in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God;
*
God has established her for ever.
- 8 We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O
God, *
in the midst of your temple.

- 9 Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to
the world's end; *
your right hand is full of justice.
- 10 Let Mount Zion be glad
and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments.
- 11 Make the circuit of Zion;
walk round about her; *
count the number of her towers.
- 12 Consider well her bulwarks;
examine her strongholds; *
that you may tell those who come after.
- 13 This God is our God for ever and ever; *
he shall be our guide for evermore.

Antiphon How wonderful is God in his holy places! The God of Israel, giving
strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

Then the Presider, standing at the site of the Altar, says

Since faithful people desire to build a house of prayer, dedicated to the glory of
God and in honor of Saint Catherine, on this ground, now marked with the
symbol of Christ;

Then, taking the spade, and breaking the ground, the Presider continues

Therefore, I break ground for this building, in the Name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Gospel be preached, the Sacraments
administered, and prayers and praises offered in this place, from generation to
generation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

People and Presider

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

V. How wonderful is God in his holy places!

R. **Establish, O God, what you have wrought for us.**

V. Be favorable and gracious to Zion:

R. **Build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

Presider Let us pray.

O Lord God of Israel, the heavens cannot contain you, yet you are pleased to dwell in the midst of your people, and have moved us to set apart a space on which to build a house of prayer: Accept and bless the work which we have now begun, that it may be brought to completion, to the honor and glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

***Please join us in the parish hall for a small
reception!***

Our Mission

To seek, love, and serve God through worship, education, and service and to share the redeeming love of Christ with the world.

Our Vision

St. Catherine's, the Episcopal Church in Chelsea, is a welcoming and inclusive family called by Christ to receive and share God's love.

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry

Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior

Assisting Bishop

The Rev. Dillon Green

Rector

The Rev. Clyde Pearce

Deacon

Dr. Matthew West, *Organist/Choirmaster*

Julie Seal

Parish Administrator

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church

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