

# Grace Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Rite II December 24, 2023 5:00 p.m. **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83 (vv. 1-3, 6)** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

O come, all ye faithful



#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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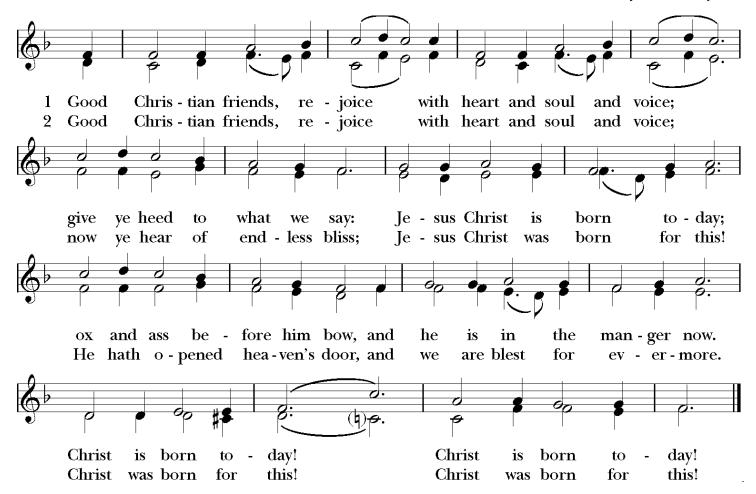
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.** 

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

### Good Christian friends, rejoice



#### A COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.** 

#### LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

As the candle is lighted, the leader will explain its significance.

Leader The center candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to save us from sin. His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! As John the Baptist announced: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Christ himself is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together.

Leader Lord, you are the light of our world.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Leader Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Leader May the light of your love always shine in our hearts.

All Amen

THE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

*Lector* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors

-The Word of the Lord

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

All: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 96** (responsively by whole verse)

and all the garments rolled in blood

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.
- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
- <sup>10</sup> Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- <sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- <sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.
- <sup>13</sup> He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

*Lector* A reading from the letter to Titus:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

-The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God.** 

#### **SEQUENCE HYMN #96** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer? What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? Gloria in excelsis Deo. Angels we have heard on high

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

-- The Gospel of the Lord People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**HYMN #100 (vv. 1-2, 4)** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Edward Kelaher

NICENE CREED

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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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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 Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; *That we all may be one.* 

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *That your Name may be glorified by all people.* 

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.* 

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; *That our works may find favor in your sight.* 

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; *That they may be delivered from their distress.* 

Give to the departed eternal rest; *Let light perpetual shine upon them.* 

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, and **Josey** Parker and those with special needs:

Christine Ryals, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Amanda Amon, Ella Asebes, David Bankston, Rhonda Bralkowski, Alice Brandon & family, Gayle Burke, Art Burkhart, Emily Duquette Byers, Seraphina Byers, Lynne Cleckley, John Clippard, Joan Clodfelter, Linda Clodfelter, Morgan Curia, Tracy Davis, Susan Dixon, Renee Ewbank, Cathy Farley, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, Jane Grimes, George Hanna, Rob Hare, Kristen Harris, Nancy Hinkle, Lucy Hodge, Chris Hodges, Jon Huff, Jahiya Huntley, Greg Hutchins, Tanya Johnson, Chris Kearley, Cara Lee, Beattie Logan, Warren MacKinstry, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Libby Miller, Roan Mitchell, Dan & Fran Moore, Ronnie Moretz, O'Lema Morgan, Chocolate Myers, Howard Palmer, Jerry Peace, Fred Pfohl, Gabby Plott, Pat Plummer, Libby Robert, Gail Rogers, Jacklyn Rojas, Lucas Sanabria, Suzy Sheets, Patty Short, Talmadge Silversides, Annabell Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Jackie Touchton, Brenda Tyndall, Lou Van Dyke, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Kathy Watson, Flynn Williams, Henry Williams, Mary & Jay Williams, Vickie Wolfe, and Charlotte Young.

"Are there others?"

Lord, in Your mercy Hear our prayer

Silence

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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.** 

THE PEACE Pg. 360

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

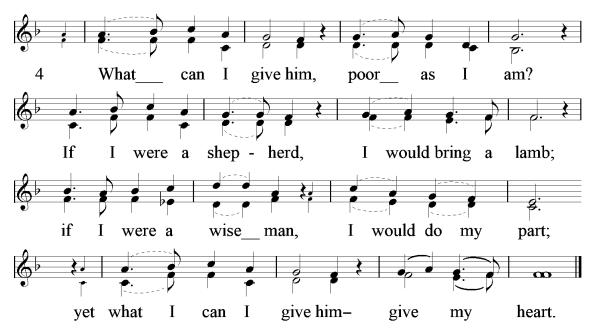
#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Christmas Greeting - M. How

#### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS - HYMN #112

In the bleak midwinter



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

**SANCTUS #S124** (sung by all)

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 may stand or kneel

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

### We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

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**.

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

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.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

#### **INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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 baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine.

Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally.

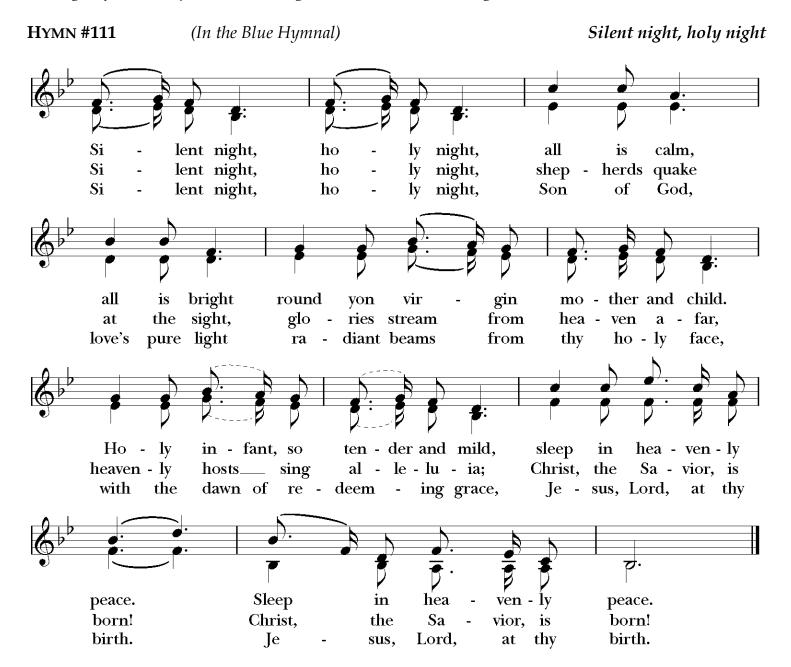
If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in 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.



#### CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** 

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.** 

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen**.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.** 



#### THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Go in peace, and may the love and Spirit of Christ fill your hearts and homes

at Christmas. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** 

Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing - arr. K. Ford

The Christmas garland and wreaths are given with grateful hearts to the glory of God and in loving memory of Steve Harvey, our wonderful son, brother, husband, Dad and Pops, by the Harvey family,

Bonnie, Debbie, Tommy, Pam, Elizabeth, Jonathan, Shana,

Mary Catherine, Aaron, Liam, and Luke.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Belinda MacKinstry Acolytes: Lyndon Briggs

Lector: Belinda MacKinstry Acolytes: Lyndon Briggs
Intercessor: Judie Reed Fisher Welborn
Usbors: Sime Riggen

**Ushers:** Sims Riggan Jack Briggs Joe Wallace

Lay Eucharistic Karl Bolstad
Ministers: Kathie Goodman

### **WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!**

We are delighted to have you worship with us on Christmas Eve. We invite you to sign our Guest Book in the narthex.

**During Holy Communion**, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper changing stations are provided in both rooms.

# The beautiful poinsettias in the church are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of my parents, Richard & Elrene Thomas, by Jön-Eric Thomas.

In loving memory of Russell C. Craver by Jön-Eric Thomas.

In honor of all of our Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders by Kathy Johnson.

In honor of our grandchildren, Chandler, Blair, Walker, and Eli, by Kathy & Russ Johnson.

In honor of Tommy, Kim, Kate, Finn, Pam, Al, Fiona, Lucas, and Helen by Patty & Ed Kelaher.

In loving memory of Walter A. "Terry" Reynolds by Sandra Reynolds and Family.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Winthrop C. LeShanna and Judith LeShanna Barber by Sandra Reynolds and family.

In honor of our children, Sarah, Cole, Blythe, and Mark, by Cathy & Sims Riggan.

In honor of our mothers, Louise Snyder and Cater Riggan, by Cathy & Sims Riggan.

In honor of the Journey to Adulthood youth and leaders by Cathy & Sims Riggan.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Hinkle by Ian & Talmadge Silversides.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Talmadge Link by Ian & Talmadge Silversides.

In loving memory of Bill & Sally Lang by Sara March, Katie, Betsy, and families.

(2) In loving memory of Bill Goodman by Kathie Goodman.

In honor of our Grace Church family by Chris and Mike Hodges.

In loving memory of Jeff Kaley and Bobby Ray Hedrick by Renee Kaley & family.

In honor of my four children and three grandchildren by Susan Terrell.

In honor of Carty & Greg Braun, Shep Husted, Tom & Shalimar Husted, by Sandra & Bob Husted.

In loving memory of Jean Taylor by Marilyn & Chuck Taylor.

In loving memory of Donald Latta by Marilyn & Chuck Taylor.



# The beautiful poinsettias in the church are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of our parents by Henry & Mimi Duquette.

In loving memory of Towers Dodd and Jane Barry by Sally Dodd.

In honor of my grandchildren Kayleigh, Noah, J.P. & Will by Sally Dodd.

In honor of Kerry & Robert Burleigh and family, by Mary & Karl Bolstad.

In honor of Robin & Mark Breeden and Petruzzi family, by Mary & Karl Bolstad.

In loving memory of David Garner by Frances Garner.

In loving memory of my parents, Kay & Arthur Reed, by Judie Reed.

In honor of Ellie Grace by Richard & Carolyn Wolfe.

In honor of Sandy Reynolds by her children and grandchildren.

In loving memory of Terry Reynolds by his children and grandchildren.

In honor of Fred McIntyre and in memory of Ann McIntyre by Walt Reynolds.

In honor of all who sing the joy of Christmas by Joan Clodfelter.

In honor of Louie and Linda Cox by Anderson, Grayson, and Merritt Carter.

In honor of Glenn and Suzy Sheets by Anderson, Grayson, and Merritt Carter.

In honor of Barbara Presnell and Bill Keesler by Anderson, Grayson, and Merritt Carter.

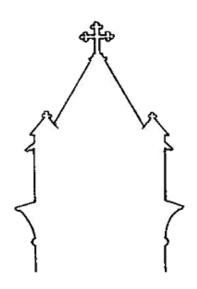
In loving memory of Ned Carter and Sally Carter by Anderson, Grayson, and Merritt Carter.

In loving memory of Lindsay Layfield by Anderson, Grayson, and Merritt Carter.

In loving memory of Louis & June Wiederhold and Irving & Barbara Kent by Donna & Richie Wiederhold.

In honor of Marlene Jones, Mary Matthews, and the Grace Sunday Lunch teams from the Grace J2A Youth.







# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

419 S. Main Street Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234 phone: 336-249-7211

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org www.gracelexingtonnc.org

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

> The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator John Taylor, Facilities Manager



#### THE VESTRY

2024	2025	2026
Lynn Meeks Treasurer	Wes Allred Sr. Warden	Karl Bolstad
Sandy Reynolds Asst. Clerk	Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer	Bright Carter
Logan Sheets	Marjorie Parker Jr. Warden	Sally Dodd clerk
Susan Terrell	Marilyn Taylor	Henry Duquette Asst. Jr. Warden

Vestry Person of the Month for December is Karl Bolstad.

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