



# Grace Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 a.m.

## PRELUDE

*Chaconne in G Minor* – Louis Couperin

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN #235 *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

*Come sing, ye choirs exultant*



1 Come sing, ye choirs ex - ult - ant, those mes - sen - gers of God,  
2 In one har - mo - nious wit - ness the chos - en four com - bine,  
3 Four - square on this foun - da - tion the Church of Christ re - mains,



through whom the liv - ing Gos - pels came sound - ing all a - broad!  
while each his own com - mis - sion ful - fills in ev - ery line;  
a house to stand un - shak - en by floods or winds or rains.



Whose voice pro - claimed sal - va - tion that poured up - on the night,  
as, in the pro - phet's vi - sion from out the am - ber flame  
How blest this ha - bi - ta - tion of gos - pel li - be - rty,



and drove a - way the sha - dows, and filled the world with light.  
in mys - tic form and im - age four liv - ing crea - tures came.  
where with a ho - ly peo - ple God dwells in U - ni - ty.

### 355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen!

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.**

**GLORIA** *(Sung by all)*

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## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Acts 8:26-40*

*Lector* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

## PSALM 22:24-30 *(responsively by whole verse)*

<sup>24</sup> My praise is of him in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those  
who worship him.

<sup>25</sup> **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:  
"May your heart live for ever!"**

<sup>26</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and  
turn to the LORD, and all the families of the  
nations shall bow before him.

<sup>27</sup> **For kingship belongs to the LORD;  
he rules over the nations.**

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow  
down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 **My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.**

30 **They shall come and make known to a people  
yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.**

## THE EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-21

*Lector* A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

## SEQUENCE HYMN #530 (vv. 1-3)

(In the Blue Hymnal)

*Spread, O spread, thou mighty word*



1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,  
2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;  
3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;  
4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;  
5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,



1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;  
2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;  
3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;  
4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.  
5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #530 (vv. 4-5) (In the Blue Hymnal) *Spread, O spread, thou mighty word*

THE SERMON

The Reverend Ed Kelaher, Rector

### 358 THE NICENE CREED

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.

### 392 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM VI)

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world; we pray for Joe our President, Roy our Governor,  
Jason our Mayor, and John and Tommy our Councilmen;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Samuel and Jennifer our Bishops; and Ed our Priest; and all other  
bishops and ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.      *Silence*

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

**Elizabeth** Byerly, **Lou** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Susan**  
Branscomb, **Gayle** Burke, **Art** Burkhart, **Seraphina** Byers, **Jean** Campbell, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Melissa** Clifton,  
**John** Clippard, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Linda** Clodfelter, **Morgan** Curia, **Dan** DiRenzo, **Susan** Dixon, **Kim** Dube,  
**Renee** Ewbank, **Cathy** Farley, **Jenny** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare,  
**Kristen** Harris, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Jahiya** Huntley, **Greg** Hutchins, **Alisa** Johnson, **Chris**  
Kearley, **Cara** Lee, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Liz** Marr, **Debbie** Mason, **Martha & Drew** Mayse, **Kate** McKenzie,  
**Roan** Mitchell, **Cathy** Mogge, **Dan & Fran** Moore, **Chocolate** Myers, **Howard** Palmer, **Gabby** Plott,  
**Jacklyn** Rojas, **Christine** Ryals, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Patty** Short, **Talmadge**  
Silversides, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Debbie** Todd, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke,  
**Flynn** Williams, **Mary & Jay** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

Hear us, Lord;      *For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.      *Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;      *And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.      *Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;      *Who put their trust in you.*

*The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*

*Celebrant and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty 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.**

*Please stand if you are able*

### 360 THE PEACE

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

*People* **And also with you.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

### OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

*Récit Tendre Pour Le Nasard - Gaspard Corrette, ed. Rollin Smith*

### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### 361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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** (*Sung by All*)

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*The people may stand or kneel*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*    **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**



We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

### 364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*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 may say 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.

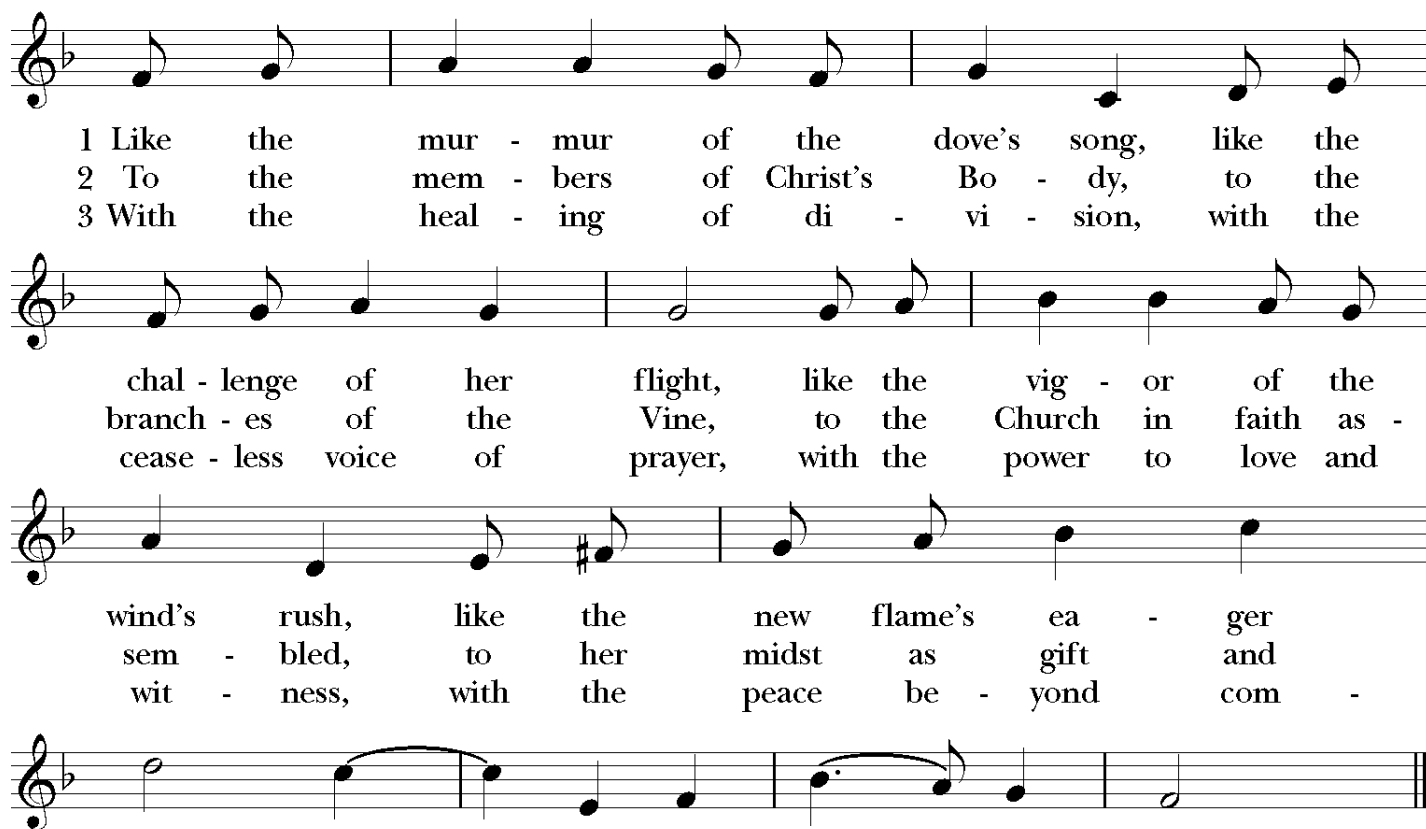
*All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.*

*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.*

*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.*



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the  
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the  
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the

chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the  
 branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -  
 cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and

wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger  
 sem - bled, to her midst as gift and  
 wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -

might: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
 sign: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
 pare: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

## 366 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING***The Celebrant blesses the people*

May the Lord direct our hearts, this day and for ever, in the love of God and in the patient waiting for Christ. The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Unison or harmony*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in  
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -  
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in



him no South or North, but one great fel - low -  
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther  
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are



ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

**THE DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
*People* Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE**

Prelude from 'Te Deum' - Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
 arr. Noel Rawsthorne

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God  
 by Nancy & Rick Mack  
 in loving memory of her father, James Wells Logan.*

**WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**Lector:** Lynn Meeks  
**Intercessor:** Judie Reed  
**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Matthews, Pam Harvey  
**Ushers:** Wes Allred, Chandler Allred  
**Greeter:** Mary-Cameron Welborn  
**Acolytes:** Lyndon Briggs, Hadley Briggs, Jack Briggs

## WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the building next door) for refreshments and conversation. **Today our hosts are Sandy Reynolds, Sally Dodd, and Barbara Presnell.**

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary.

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

**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.



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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  
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director  
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita  
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director  
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator  
John Taylor, Facilities Manager

### THE VESTRY

| <u>2025</u>                       | <u>2026</u>                     | <u>2027</u>          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Wes Allred Sr. Warden             | Karl Bolstad                    | Dan Briggs           |
| Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer   | Bright Carter                   | Melissa Hanley Helms |
| Marjorie Parker Jr. Warden        | Sally Dodd Clerk                | Mary Matthews        |
| Marilyn Taylor                    | Henry Duquette Asst. Jr. Warden | Leslie Sheets        |
| Lynn Meeks Treasurer (Ex-Officio) |                                 |                      |

The Vestry Person of the Month for April is Mary Matthews.

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