



Grace Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

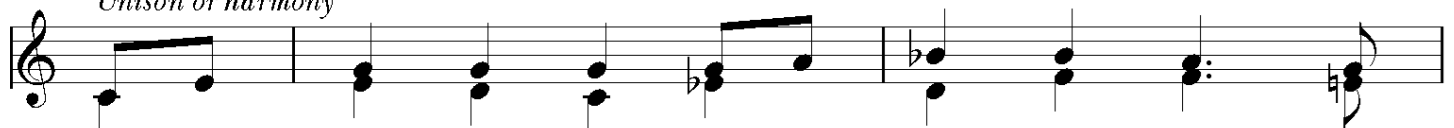
Jubilation – F. D. Ashdown

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #529

In Christ there is no East or West

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.

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)

Organ *Unison Voices*



Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King,
al - migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
slower Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
have mer-cy up-on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand
a tempo of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. For you a - lone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi - rit,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

©Bill Herndon 2024

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 11:1-18

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision.

There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

- The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

**² Praise him, all you angels of his;
praise him, all his host.**

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

**⁴ Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the Name of the Lord;
for he commanded, and they were created.

**⁶ He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**⁸ Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all
cedars;

**¹⁰ Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**¹² Young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the Name of the Lord,
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.

**¹⁴ He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
him. Hallelujah!**

Lector A reading from the Revelation of John.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

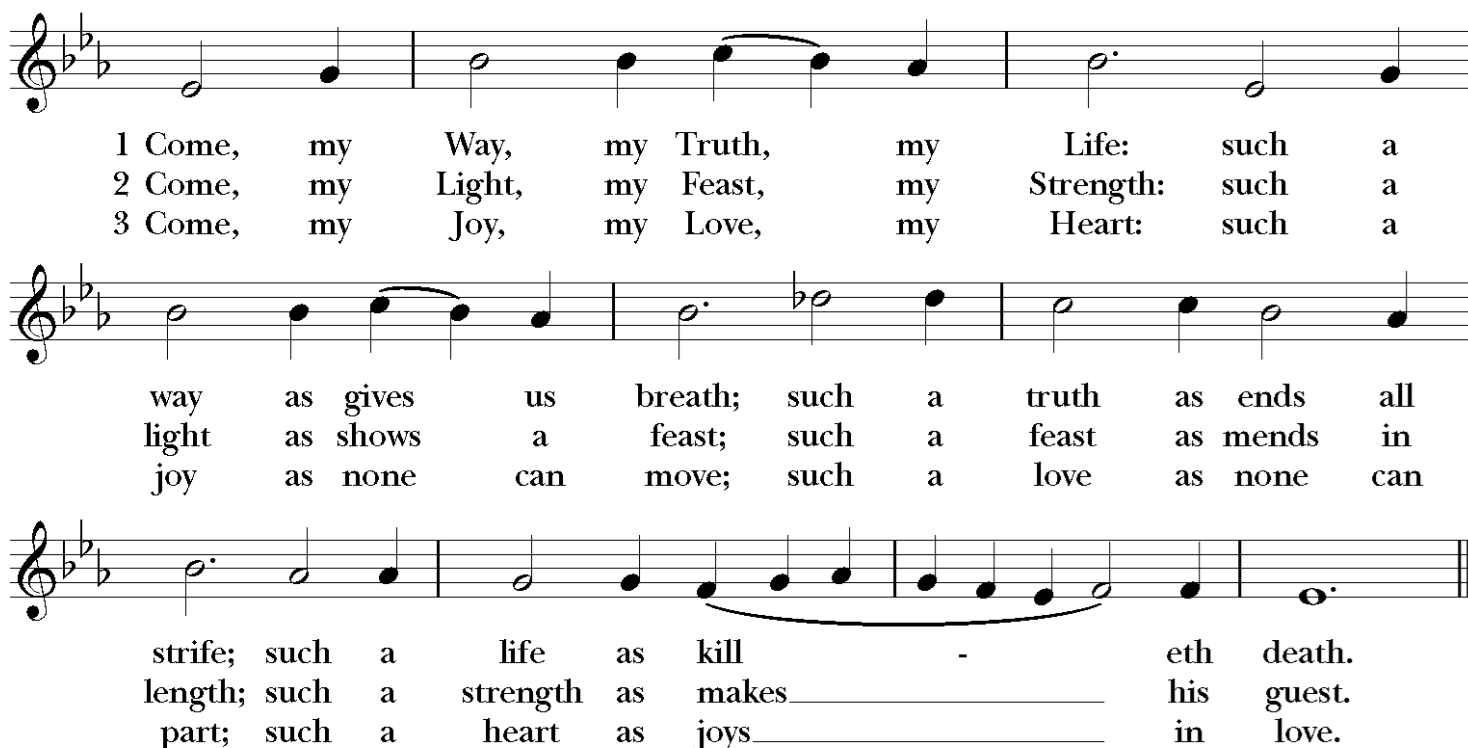
And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #487 (vv. 1-2)

(In the Blue Hymnal)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #487 (v. 3) *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

THE SERMON

*Dr. Catherine Meeks, Founding Executive Director
of the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing*

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 Donald our President, Josh 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 Sean 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.

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

Judy Boyd, **Lloyd** Lohr, **Joshua** Sheffield, **Lou** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Ella** Asebes, **Paul** Batson, **Jeannie** Belk, **Louise** Billings, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Mike** Bralkowski, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Susan** Branscomb, **Lynne** Broch, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Morgan** Curia, **Becky Jo** Davis, **Roy** Deese, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Jenny** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **James** Giles, **Angie** Gowen, **Earnest** Graham, **Jane** Grimes, **Jim** Hackney, **George** Hanna, **Semi** Harne, **Carol** Harris, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Brittany** Hudson, **Nancy** Hutchins, **Vickie & Mike** Johnson, **Andrew** Jones, **David & Marlene** Jones, **Brian** Kent, **Diana** Landschoot, **Cara** Lee, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Kate** McKenzie, **Charles** McNeair, **Dan & Fran** Moore, **Angela** Mott, **Howard** Palmer, **Lori** Parks, **Walker** Peoples, **Gabby** Plott, **Ellen** Rickert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Melissa** Routh, **Christine** Ryals, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Elizabeth** Shuman, **Carol** Sills, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Morgan** Simmons, **Clyde** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Sharon** Smith, **Sean** Sullivan, **Jackie** Touchton, **Arthur** Townsend, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke, **Sandy** Wallace, **Flynn** Williams, **Michael** 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.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven – arr. J. Kirkby

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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*)



©Bill Herndon 2024

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.

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 Christ, the true and living way, guide you into all truth and lead you into abundant life. May the love of the risen Lord fill your hearts and dwell richly in your homes. And may the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
 If we just dream of what could be
 If we just sing of doing good
 God, may our prayers and dreams and songs

— And don't live out a faith that dares,
 — And do not build com-mun-i-ty,
 — And don't walk through our neigh-bor-hood
 — Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs -

— And don't take on the ways of death,
 — And do not seek to change our ways,
 — To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
 - That works for peace and just-ice, too,

— Our thoughts and prayers are fleet-ing breath.
 — Our dreams of change are false dis-plays.
 — Our talk of good is simp-ly vain.
 — Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness - J. S. Bach

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Grace Church friends
in honor of Dr. Catherine Meeks.*

*The flowers in the narthex today are given to the glory of God
by Julie Dayvault
in honor of Barbara Presnell.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Tere Wagner
Intercessor: Elizabeth Purdy
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Tommy Black, Karl Bolstad
Ushers: Richie Wiederhold, Sims Riggan
Greeter: Frances Garner
Acolytes: Hadley Briggs, Ward Inabinett, Fisher Welborn

Dr. Catherine Meeks

After graduating from Pepperdine University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Education, Dr. Meeks earned a master's degree in social work from Clark Atlanta University and a Ph.D. from Emory University.

She then went on to a 25-year career at Mercer University as an assistant dean of women, instructor, and assistant professor before Macon, Georgia Mayor Jim Marshall asked her to lead the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force for two years. That led to her being recruited by Wesleyan College to be the Clara Carter Acree Distinguished Professor of Socio-Cultural Studies for nine years until her retirement in 2008.

Dr. Meeks says her faith inspired her to work for racial healing as well as her personal experiences and her passion for justice. Growing up in Arkansas during the Jim Crow era she saw and experienced the racial violence, discrimination, and oppression that plagued the African American community.

Dr. Meeks credits her mother with teaching her to love God and to love herself as a child of God. She also learned from her mother the importance of education, resilience, and compassion.

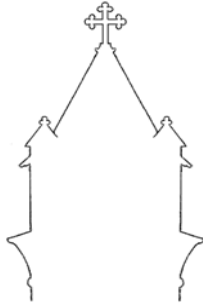
Grace Church warmly welcomes Dr. Meeks among us this morning, with our love, honor, and prayers.

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 members of the Parish Life Commission.**

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.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

419 S. Main Street

Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234

phone: 336-249-7211

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org

www.gracelexingtonnc.org



The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Maureen Tinchler, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita

THE VESTRY

2026

Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden

2027

Dan Briggs
Elizabeth Purdy
Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry
Leslie Sheets Senior Warden

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for May is Lynn Meeks.