

Grace Episcopal Church

Lexington, North Carolina

The Second Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist Rite II

March 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Baptism and Confirmation

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop of North Carolina, Celebrant
The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Baptized in Water

1 Baptized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Baptized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Baptized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ, our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ, our King; born of one Fa - ther, we are his



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren, joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

299 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

The people standing, the Bishop says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People His mercy endures for ever.

The Bishop then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

TRISAGION



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on
us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have
mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

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218 THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 12:1-4a

Lector A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

779 PSALM 121 (*responsively by whole verse*)

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved and he
who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

5 The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

**6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

**8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.**

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

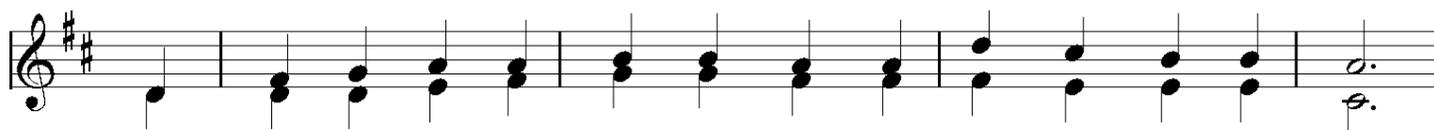
For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #489 (VV. 1-4) *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

The great Creator of the worlds



1 The great Cre - a - tor of the worlds, the sov - ereign God of heaven,
 2 He sent no an - gel of his host to bear this might - y word,
 3 He sent him not in wrath and power, but grace and peace to bring;
 4 He sent him down as send - ing God; in flesh to us he came;
 5 He came as Sa - vior to his own, the way of love he trod;
 6 Not to op - press, but sum - mon all their tru - est life to find,



1 his ho - ly and im - mor - tal truth to all on earth hath given.
 2 but him through whom the worlds were made, the ev - er - last - ing Lord.
 3 in kind - ness, as a king might send his son, him - self a king.
 4 as one with us he dwelt with us, and bore a hu - man name.
 5 he came to win us by good will, for force is not of God.
 6 in love God sent his Son to save, not to con - demn man - kind.

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #489 (VV. 5-6) *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

The great Creator of the worlds

THE SERMON

The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson
Assistant Bishop of North Carolina

A period of silence is kept.

301 PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Adults and Older Children

The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows

Sponsor I present Ronan Chambers Sullivan to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented

Ronan, do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions to the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

415 *When there are others to be presented, the Bishop says*

The other Candidates will now be presented.

Presenters

I present these people for Confirmation: Hadley Worth Briggs, Jack Daniel Briggs II, Cooper James Petruzzi, and Fisher Hobbs Welborn.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

304 THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

305 PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth and for those who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A period of silence follows.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

306 THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

307 THE BAPTISM

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

309 AT CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION, OR REAFFIRMATION

The Bishop says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

Silence may be kept.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

309 FOR CONFIRMATION

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower him/her for your service; and sustain him/her all the days of his/her life. **Amen.**

or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that he/she may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he/she comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

360 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR MISSION (*said by all*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Most gracious and Loving God: Strengthen the hearts of your people in this diocese that loving you with our whole heart, and loving our neighbors as ourselves, we might, in the power of the Spirit, obey the call of Jesus, to go into our world as disciples making disciples, and making a difference through your saving love. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*choir only*) *Christ, Upon the Mountain Stands* – Robert Lehman

All undesignated gifts today will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund to be used in circumstances of special need.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS DOXOLOGY #705 (v. 3) (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

*With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to thee
to serve thy cause and share thy love
with all humanity.*

*O thou who gavest us thyself
in Jesus Christ thy Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.*

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.

Because in Jesus Christ you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

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*)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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The people may kneel or stand

362 *Then the Celebrant continues*

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 hath taught us, we are bold to say,

364 **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

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.

365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people

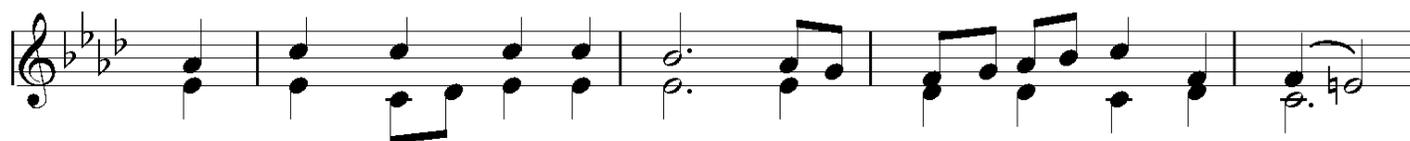
The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;
 3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,
 4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,



1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;
 2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:
 3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;
 4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!



1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:
 2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,
 3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,
 4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:



1 we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.
 2 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.
 3 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.
 4 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."

366 THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Minor, Op. 28, No. 20 – F. Chopin

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Neil Shepherd
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Tommy Black, Staley Nance
Ushers: Louie Cox, Joe Wallace
Greeter: Sandra Husted
Acolytes: Fisher Welborn, Tanner Sheets, Tucker Sheets

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 adjacent building) for refreshments and conversation. **Today our hosts are Cathy & Sims Riggan, Staley Nance, and Will Miller.**

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. However, we also offer a nursery in our Parish Hall (adjacent building). Children will be walked up to the sanctuary during The Peace.

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

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

THE VESTRY

2027

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

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

2029

Kristie Miller
Marjorie Parker Senior Warden
Cathy Riggan
Mary-Cameron Welborn

Vestry Person of the Month for March is Mary Matthews.