



Grace Episcopal Church

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:30 a.m.

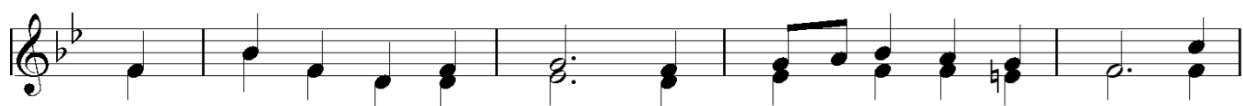
BCP PRELUDE

Toccata in E-minor – J. Pachelbel

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #551 (In the Blue Hymnal)

Rise up, ye saints of God!



1 Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with less - er things, give
 2 Rise up, ye saints of God! His king - dom tar - ries long; Lord,
 3 Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; and



heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.
 bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.
 quick-ened by the Spi - rit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

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.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Lector A reading from the Prophet Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

PSALM 145:1-8 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your Name for ever and ever.**

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to
another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor of your
majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall speak of the might of your
wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your
great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 1:21-30

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

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

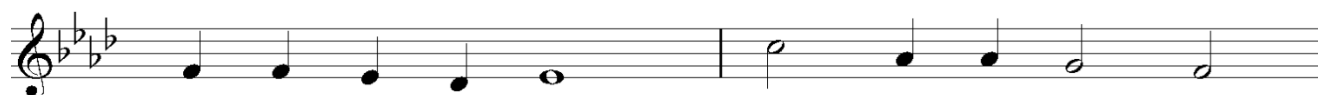
- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #541 (vv. 1-5)

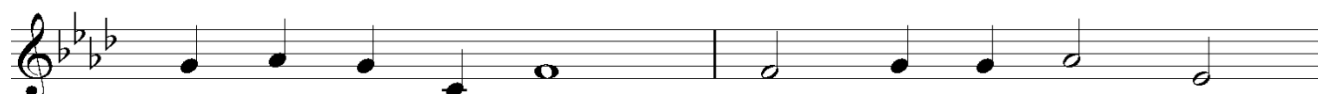
Come, labor on



1	Come,	la - bor	on.	Who	dares stand	i - dle
2	Come,	la - bor	on.	The	en - e - my	is
3	Come,	la - bor	on.	A -	way with gloom - y	
4	Come,	la - bor	on.	Claim	the high call - ing	
5	Come,	la - bor	on.	No	time for rest,	till



1	on the har - vest plain,	while	all a - round	us
2	watch - ing night and day,	to	sow the tares,	to
3	doubts and faith - less fear!	No	arm so weak	but
4	an - gels can - not share-	to	young and old	the
5	glows the west - ern sky,	till	the long sha - dows	



1	waves the gold - en grain?	And	to each ser - vant
2	snatch the seed a - way;	while	we in sleep our
3	may do ser - vice here:	by	feeb - lest a - gents
4	Gos - pel glad - ness bear:	re -	deem the time; its
5	o'er our path - way lie,	and	a glad sound comes



1	does the Mas - ter say,	"Go	work to -	day."
2	du - ty have for - got,	he	slum - bered	not.
3	may our God ful - fill	his	right - eous	will.
4	hours too swift - ly fly.	The	night draws	nigh.
5	with the set - ting sun,		"Ser - vants, well	done."

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

SEQUENCE VOLUNTARY

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Stephen Becker

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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Julia** Klass, **Josey** Parker, **Brianna** Cantrall, **Barry** Shapiro, **Chase** Tincher, and **Jack** Tincher,

and those with special needs:

Lou Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Ella** Asebes, **Bob** Beard, **Louise** Billings, **Tom** Blalock, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Alice** Brandon, **Lynne** Broch, **Jack** Buckheit, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Jennifer** Cashion, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Bob** Cook, **Linda** Cox, **Wesley** Crump, **Chris** Davila, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Phyllis** Finger, **Shana** Garland, **Lilly** Griffin, **Jimmy** Hall, **George** Hanna, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Bob** Holcomb, **Marlene** Jones, **Ed** Kelaher, **Ray** Kent, **Peggy** Klass, **Beattie** Logan, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Arnold** Miller, **Sherry** Moore, **Walker** Peoples, **Gabby** Plott, **Shirley** Remsburg, **Ellen** Rickert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Betty Jo** Sadler, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Carol** Sills, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Clyde** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Sean** Sullivan, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Donna** Wiederhold, **Flynn** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

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

Celebrant

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN 178 (v. 4)

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his Name.

Repeat Refrain



4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God, joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

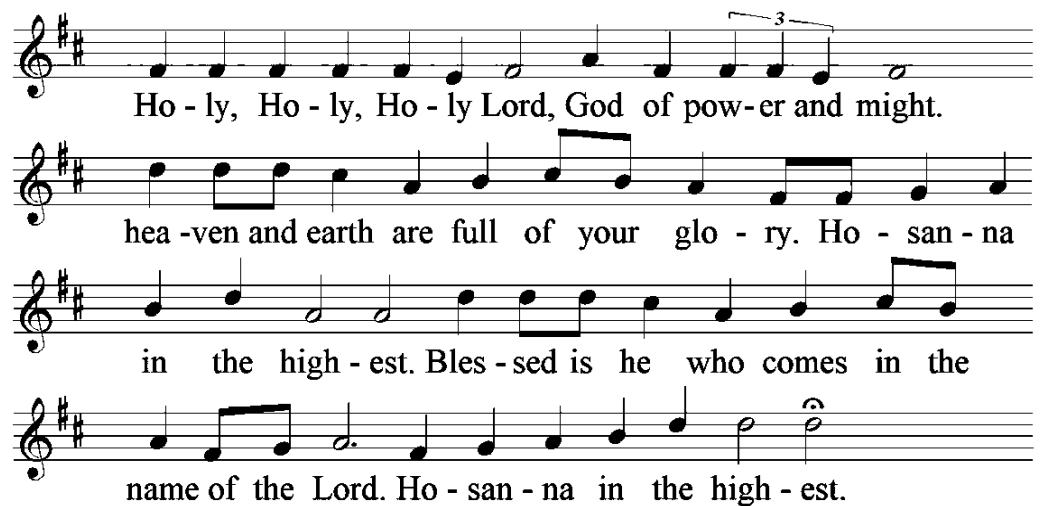
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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,

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.
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364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

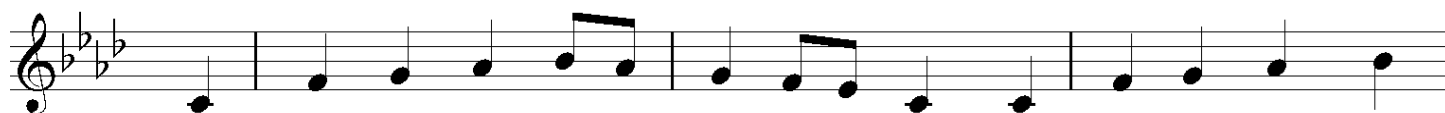
INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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 Not here for high and ho - ly things we ren - der thanks to
 4 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the
 5 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of
 6 to give and give, and give a - gain, what God hath giv - en



1 thee, but for the com - mon things of earth, the
 4 sky, the fields are wet with dia - mond dew, the
 5 praise; see how the gi - ant sun soars up, great
 6 thee; to spend thy - self nor count the cost; to



1 pur - ple pa - gean - try of dawn - ing and of
 4 worlds a - wake to cry their bles - sings on the
 5 lord of years and days! So let the love of
 6 serve right glo - rious - ly the God who gave all



1 dy - ing days, the splen - dor of the sea,
 4 Lord of life, as he goes meek - ly by.
 5 Je - sus come and set thy soul a - blaze,
 6 worlds that are, and all that are to be.

365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

May the God of abundant grace fill your hearts with gratitude, free you from comparison, and teach you to rejoice in the blessings of others. Go forth in love and generosity, and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of the mind;



there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There is wel-come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;



there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Prelude in B-flat Major – J. S. Bach

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
 by Josh & Samantha Mathews
 in loving memory of Greg Mathews.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Neil Shepherd
LEMs: Karl Bolstad, Mary Matthews
Ushers: Tommy Black, Richard Wolfe
Precessor: Judie Reed

Acolytes: Fisher Welborn
Blair Allred
Chandler Allred

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.

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. The restrooms are 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 Stephen Becker, Interim Rector
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director
Maureen Tinchler, Parish Administrator
Kristi Allred, Media Specialist
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
David Inabinett

2029

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

Vestry Person of the Month for September is Kristi Allred.