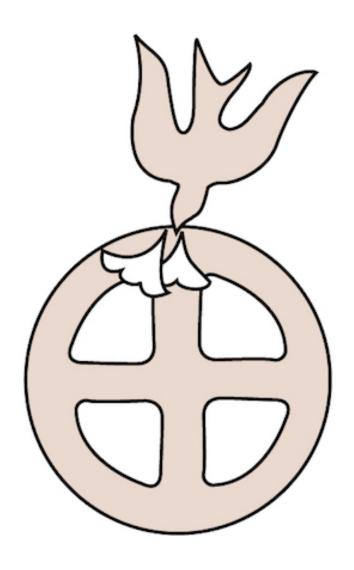
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



APRIL 7, 2024 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30АМ

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't? Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.

OR

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from Enriching Our Worship 2)

OR

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart
and unite myself to you completely.

Please do not let me ever by separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)

\*Except where otherwise indicated, the whole of this article (with only very little amendment) is taken from the website of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where it was posted on April 5, 2020. No author was specified.

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

# THE WORD OF GOD

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Prelude** 

**Opening Hymn 192** 

This joyful Eastertide

**V**RUECHTEN



**OPENING ACCLAMATION** 

Celebrant:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

COLLECT FOR PURITY BCP 355

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.

BCP 351





#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 133 (spoken)

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \* when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head \* that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \* and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon \* that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: \* life for evermore.

#### THE SECOND READING

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn 490

I want to walk as a child of the light

Houston



THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

(said by all, standing)

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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form VI

**BCP 392** 

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

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 our President, Joseph, our Governor, Brian, and our Mayor, Kelly.

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, Rob, Paul, and Don, our Bishops; (...) and for all bishops and other ministers, priests, deacons, and clergy associates, especially Lin, Dutton, Carol, Ellen, Christina, & Nikki;

### For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for (...) Hear us, Lord;

## For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks for (...) 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. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

# Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

#### THE PEACE

*Celebrant*: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 209

We walk by faith

ST. BOTOLPH



Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3

Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. Glory to you for ever and ever.

OLD 100TH

BCP 367

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

## By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

# Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

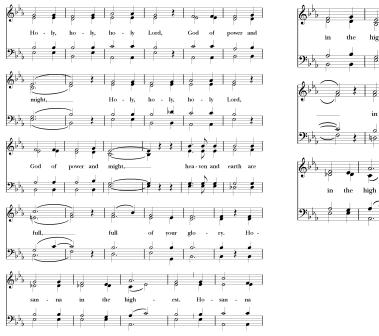
## By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

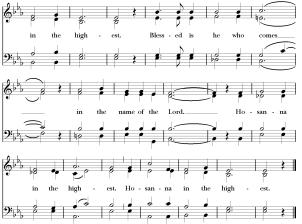
And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

#### \* Sanctus S-130

## Holy, holy, holy Lord

Franz Schubert





And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

## We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

#### Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN**.

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

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

#### \* Fraction Anthem S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert



#### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

# **Communion Hymn 693**

Just as I am, without one plea

Woodworth



6 Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove, here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366

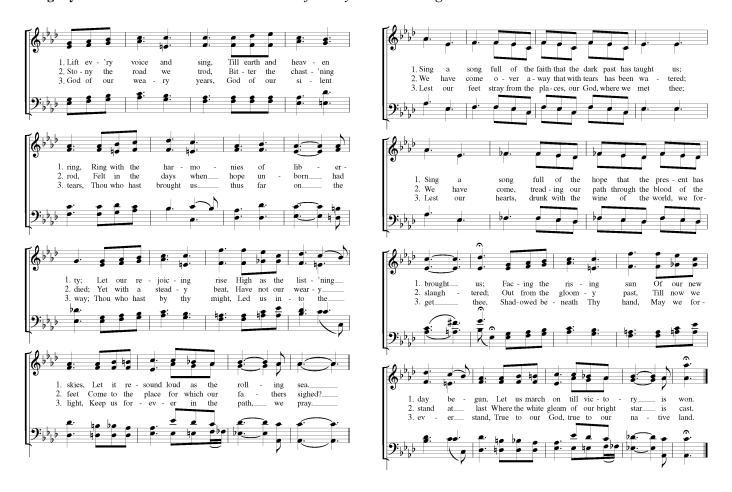
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, 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

## **Closing Hymn 1 LEVAS**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Johnson



#### THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

About today's music...

Kathleen Thomerson first conceived the hymn "I want to walk as a child of the light" (#490) in the summer of 1966 when both a heat wave and airline strike gripped the city of St. Louis. At the time, the composer's mother was visiting and had become stranded in Missouri. To help her mother escape the heat and get back home, Thomerson set out by car and drove her mother back to Huston Texas. The anticipation of returning to her family and very close friends at the Church of the Redeemer was a source of great joy for the mother and ultimately the source of inspiration for this hymn.

# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Anna Bowman, Cheryl Lowry, Jennifer Johnson, Sheldon Clements, Evan Powell, Janet Wright, Billy Hale, Kyra Madden, Eddie Bennett, Mary Burkett, Cecil Beagle, Diana Beagle, William Beagle, Jim Klippel, Jackie Dorsey, Denise Glynn, Mike Fowler, Cecil Hudson, Jean Estes, Elmer Clark, Shelby Welch, Nancy Carter, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Ellen Kappel, Cayden Mitchell, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Don Downie, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Donna, Kelly, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Henri Johnson, Gene Ruffin, Sarah Black, Levi Estep, Jonathan Klein, and Raymond Scottright; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Ron & Annette Bates.

The people listed here are prayed for by name at each Sunday service. To request prayer for yourself or someone else, please call the office (706-546-7553). If at the beginning of the next month the person needs to remain on the list, please call and give the office an update.

# **NEXT WEEK**

# **CONFIRMATION CLASSES | BEGIN APRIL 14**

For all those interested in getting confirmed, received, reaffirmed, or if you just want to learn more about the Episcopal Church-confirmation class will be offered starting on April 14th following the 10:30am service then every Sunday leading up to Diocesan confirmation on June 2nd in Atlanta. If you are interested in joining the class please reach out to Mother Nikki or Wade McGlamery and let us know.

# BLUE JEAN SUNDAY | SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Save the date for Sunday, April 14: Blue Jean Sunday! Come enjoy a free lunch and help us spring clean the church! Everyone wear their blue jeans to church that day and bring your gardening gloves. Jobs for every ability!

## THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN | WEDS., APRIL 17

Come see The Philadelphia Eleven, the historic story of civil disobedience in ordaining the first women priests in the Episcopal Church. Transportation is available from Emmanuel Episcopal Church to this event. To register for transportation, please call Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Administrator at 706-543-1294. Registration for the screening and reception requires a separate step. Please use the QR code to reserve your space at the screening. See ya there!

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING | FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Next Stewardship meeting will be April 19th @ 3:30 pm - meet in the Parish Hall. We welcome all who are interested in participating in our next Stewardship Campaign.

## NEW FOLK SERVICE OFFERING | FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Beginning on Friday, April 19, St Gregory's will be offering a monthly Ceilidh service (pronounced kay-lee). Based on a Gaelic tradition of celebrating community and hospitality, a folk liturgy complete with live folk music and a meal will be offered in the Christian Education building at 6:30PM. Foot washing and hand anointing will also be available at these services for anyone who wants to take part. Any musicians that are interested in helping to provide the music for these services, as well as anyone with questions about the service, are encouraged to reach out to Wade McGlamery.

# YOUNG DESIGNERS FASHION SHOW | SAT., APRIL 20

Call to fellow Gregorians! On Saturday, April 20 at 3PM, St. Gregory's will host the fashion show for the Young Designers Sewing Program. We did this last year and it was a huge success due to the generous help from our congregation. The Young Designers Sewing Program is a sewing program for girls from Gainesville ElementarySchool, Hillsman Middle School, and Cedar Shoals High School. The girls who participate in the program learn to sew, design patterns and fabrics in a variety of techniques, and much, much more. The program encourages leadership, life and work skills, and travel experiences. Maggie Reinberger and I (Jenifer Borg) are regular volunteers with this group. The girls have been working hard on their garments, and have included a number of surface design techniques such as Shibori, ice dyeing, kaleidoscope designs, and 3D printing.

The fashion show at St. Gregory will welcome the family members and friends of the girls as well as our congregation to see what the girls have made and where they are going next. Last year we had about 90 people for the show and I anticipate that we will have that many again this time. We will need volunteers to help with refreshments, setting up chairs, decorating, putting away chairs, and greeting visitors. The event is free, donations are happily accepted. If you can't make this event, they have another fashion show on 4/28 at the Athens Country Club which is the major fundraiser of the season.

If you can help with any part of this worthy event, please contact me, Jenifer Borg, at jeniferaborg@aol.com, 706-614-4895. Everyone is welcome!

# **ONGOING**

## HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the sanctuary for eucharist and prayers for healing.

# **NOTES**

#### **FREE BOOKS**

The newly formed Library Committee has begun to sort through generations of books with the intention of making the offerings of the St. Gregory Library more accessible and useful to everyone. Those volumes that have seen better days and times will be placed for a week or so on the long white tables in the main area of the Education Building and made available for the taking with one rule—no bringing them back! Though you never know what might speak to you! Those books left there over a week or two will be donated to the public library. Hopefully by making some space the many hidden treasures that remain in St. Gregory's Library will be more easily seen, accessed and appreciated.

## THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs pork & beans and plain white rice! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: Gail Eilers

Readers: Roger Schwenke (8AM) Wade McGlamery (10:30AM)

EMs: Lin Kromhout & Karen Hankins

Crucifers: Torches:

Flowers: Lisa Hunt

Altar Guild: Barbara Dean, Jane Sheridan

Ushers: Anthony & Deb Garner

Counters: Jane Hudson & Michael Castengera

Livestream: Anthony Barkdoll

# **Clergy and Staff**

**The Rev. Nikki Mathis** Rector rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

**The Rev. Christina Dondero** Deacon *christinadondero@gmail.com* | 404-918-7248

**Kendall M. Kookogey** Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper *office@stgregoryathens.org* | 706-546-7553 x1

Jonathan Klein Music Director/Organist jonathanfk@gmail.com | 706-296-8102

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister www.cglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

**Jude Red-Bear** Nursery Director *juderedbear@icloud.com* | 706-614-0008

**Mark Hein** Buildings/Grounds *markehein@gmail.com* | 706-549-3239

**Terri Tillman** WebMaster *ttillman@gmail.com* 

**Danielle Vogt** Coffee Host danielle 1784@gmail.com

**Anthony Barkdoll** Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Willem Swindler, Stephanie Swindler, Berkeley Boone

*Vestry Members:* Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause, *Sr. Warden*; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson, *Jr. Warden*; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer* 

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Gail Eilers eilersgail@gmail.com

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