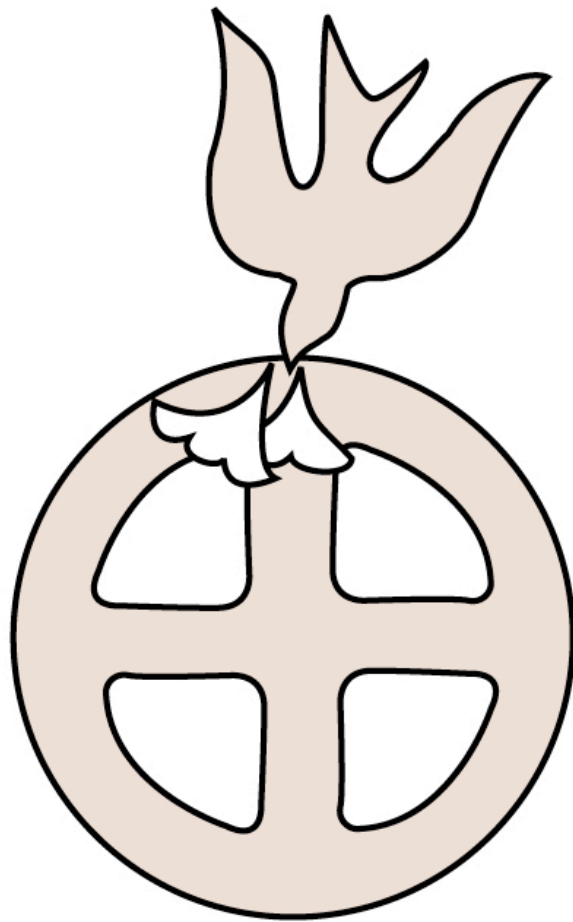


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



APRIL 25, 2021

PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE

6PM

W/ ONLINE CHAT BEGINNING AT 5:45PM

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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## THE WORD OF GOD

### 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 be 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.*

## Opening Hymn 213

*Come away to the skies*

MIDDLEBURY

*Unison or harmony*

1 Come a - way to the skies, my be - lov - ed, a - rise and re -  
 2 Now with sing - ing and praise, let us spend all the days, by our  
 3 For the glo - ry we were first cre - a - ted to share, both the  
 4 We with thanks do ap - prove the de - sign of that love which hath  
 \*5 Hal - le - lu - jah we sing, to our Fa - ther and King, and his

1 joyce in the day thou wast born; — on this fes - ti - val day,  
 2 hea - ven - ly Fa - ther be - stowed, — while his grace we re - ceive  
 3 na - ture and king - dom di - vine! — Now cre - a - ted a - gain  
 4 joined us to Je - sus' — Name; — so u - ni - ted in heart,  
 5 rap - tu - rous prais - es, re - peat: — to the Lamb that was slain,

1 come ex - ult - ing a - way, and with sing - ing to Zi - on re - turn. —  
 2 from his boun - ty, and live to the hon - or and glo - ry of God. —  
 3 that our lives may re - main, through - out time and e - ter - ni - ty thine. —  
 4 let us nev - er - more part, till we meet at the feast of the Lamb. —  
 5 hal - le - lu - jah a - gain, sing, all heav - en, and fall at his feet. —

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

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.




1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-



might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we




praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,



on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you




take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-



ceive our prayer. 6. For



you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of



God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE FIRST READING

*read by LeeAnne Krause*

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

***Thanks be to God.***

## **Psalm 23**

*Spoken by all*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; \* I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \* and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \* and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## THE SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

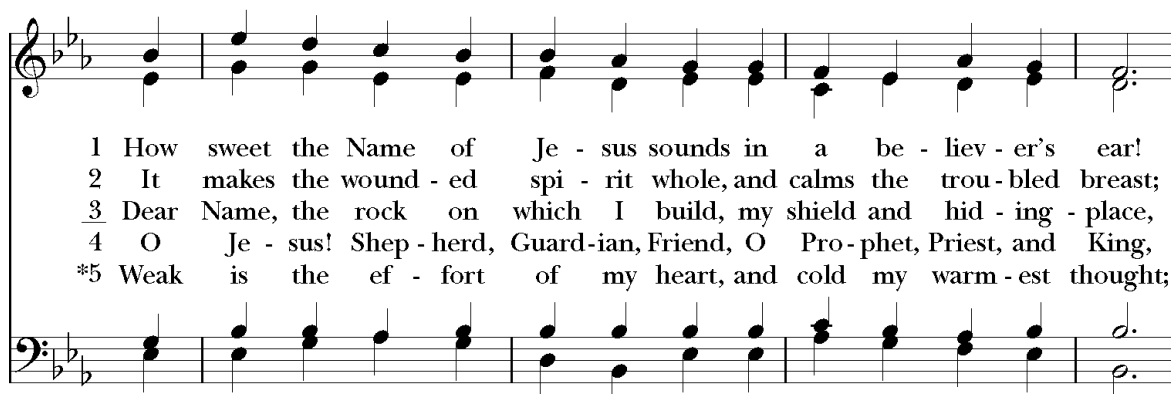
We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

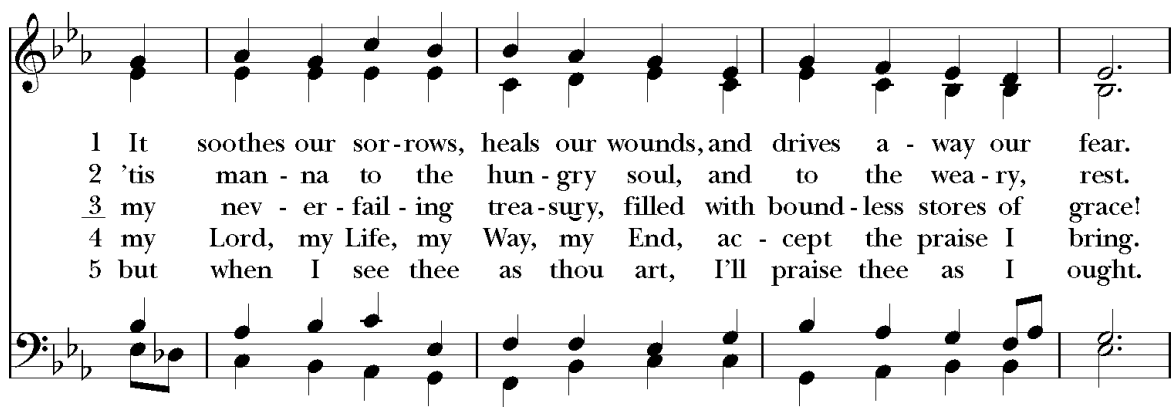
And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

***Thanks be to God.***



1 How sweet the Name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!  
 2 It makes the wound - ed spi - rit whole, and calms the trou - bled breast;  
 3 Dear Name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing - place,  
 4 O Je - sus! Shep - herd, Guard - ian, Friend, O Pro - phet, Priest, and King,  
 \*5 Weak is the ef - fort of my heart, and cold my warm - est thought;



1 It soothes our sor - rows, heals our wounds, and drives a - way our fear.  
 2 'tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wea - ry, rest.  
 3 my nev - er - fail - ing trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace!  
 4 my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, ac - cept the praise I bring.  
 5 but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

## THE GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

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

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

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*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)*

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.

#### THE 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, and Rob, Don, and Paul, our Bishops;

and for all bishops and other ministers, especially Nikki, our priest, and Christina, our deacon ( ... )

**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 Anthem

*Day by Day*

Martin How

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:

to see thee more clearly,

love thee more dearly,

follow thee more nearly,

day by day.

*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.*

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing

**\* Sanctus S-128**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*    ***We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Gregory the Great and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 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.**

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

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 365

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

1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me

is his Name; \_\_\_\_\_ in pas - tures fresh he  
 is my stay; \_\_\_\_\_ one word of thy sup -  
 all my days; \_\_\_\_\_ oh, may thy house be

makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.\_\_\_\_  
 port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.\_\_\_\_  
 mine a - bode and all my work be praise.\_\_\_\_

He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -  
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my  
 There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers

sake his ways, \_\_\_\_\_ and leads me, for his  
 ta - ble spread; \_\_\_\_\_ my cup with bless - ings  
 go and come; \_\_\_\_\_ no more a stran - ger

mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.\_\_\_\_  
 o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.\_\_\_\_  
 or a guest, but like a child at home.\_\_\_\_

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Fellowship Postlude

*The Power of Your Love*

arr. Lloyd Larson

## Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Joel Hunt, Mia Camoston, Ellen Richardson, Jo Benton, Tammy Bowman, Carl Hoveland, Carol Jones, Rainsly Vogt, Mark Goodwin, Jane Bowen, Mack Thurmond, Marge Massey, Dot Cooper, Sheryl King, Allena Armour, Doug Welch, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Rose Ann Pace, Aaron Muckin, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, George Watson, Conoly Hester, Deborah Freeman, Catherine Hartley, Mary Parkman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Sandy Elhenicky, Shelby Welch, Sarah Gordon, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Martha Beach, Jack Beach, Tammy Bishop, Cecil Miller, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Kim Rider, Patrick Dean, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Kimberleah, Thelma, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, Chip, and Buddy.

**In sympathy to** Tammy Bowman, on the death of her mother, Beverly Howard.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week:** Jane Hudson, Ian Van Giesen, Olivia Morris, Geneva Preston, Michelle Burrett, Ron Balthazor, Linda Morris, and Susan Risler; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Sarah Gordon & Betty Littleton, Ron Balthazor & Jane Hudson, and Benjamin & Gabrielle Compton.

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*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.*

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### Clergy and Staff

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**Vestry Members:** Jane Hudson, Sr. Warden; Kelly Black, Jr. Warden; Julie Worley; LeeAnne Krause; John Bray; Anna Hiers; Blaine Everson; Eddie Bennett; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

**Vestry Person of the Day/Week:** Jane Hudson [janeghudson@gmail.com](mailto:janeghudson@gmail.com)

