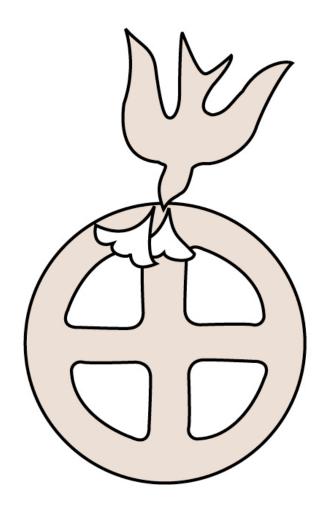
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



MAY 22, 2022 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

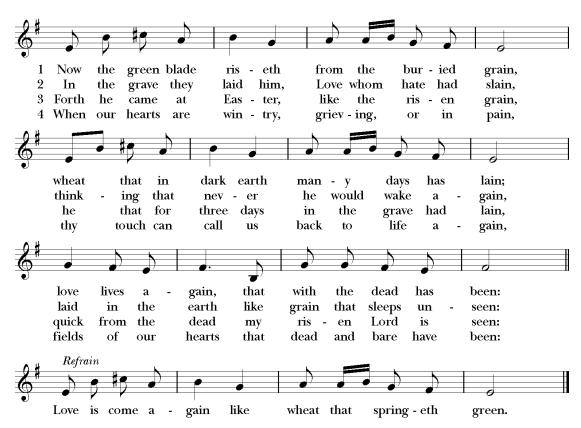
Prelude Holy, Holy, Holy arr. John Dykes

We invite you to please silence your cell phones and to enter worship in stillness, silence, and reverence during the Prelude, which begins our service.

Processional Hymn 204

Now the green blade riseth

NOËL NOUVELET



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.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

1 May God be merciful to us and / bless us, *

show us the light of his countenance and / come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon / earth, *

your saving health among all / nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O / God; *

let all the peoples / praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for / joy, *

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon / earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O / God; *

let all the peoples / praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her / increase; *

may God, our own God, give us his / blessing.

7 May God give us his / blessing, *

and may all the ends of the earth stand in / awe of him.

THE SECOND READING Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL John 14:23-29

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form III

BCP 383

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, especially Michael, Rob, and Don, and all priests and deacons, especially Nikki and Christina;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others....

We give special thanks for ...

The Celebrant adds a Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATES

Adam Carabello - Clarke Central High School
Emma Cooper - Clarke Central High School
Emma Scott - Clarke Central High School
Aneesa Conine-Nakano - UC Berkeley
Madalyn Kuhn - UGA
Anna Thornton - UGA
Katie Reinberger - PhD from UGA
Julie Worley - PhD from UGA

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst arr. Dan Forrest

O God beyond all praising, we worship You today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before You and wait upon Your word, we honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord. for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free. and we through Him are given the final victory. Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King. and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still: to marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

BCP 372

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

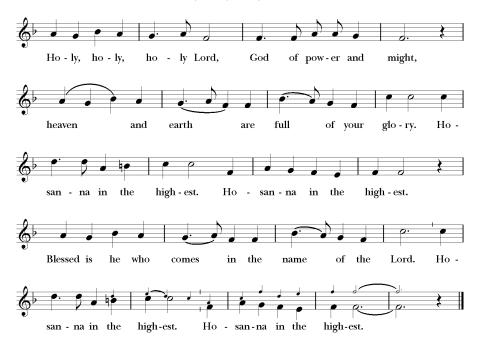
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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,



Celebrant continues

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 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.

*Fraction Anthem S-158

O Lamb of God

Healey Willan



Communion Hymn 705

As those of old their first fruits brought

FOREST GREEN



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 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.

Recessional Hymn 409

The spacious firmament on high

CREATION



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!

Postlude Hornpipe G. F. Handel



The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in celebration of Emma Scott's High School graduation, by Valerie Oxford.

Special thanks to Josh Klein & Thomas Minor for their music today!

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Mack Thurmond, Dan Nolen, Jr., Jamaica Miller, Brenda Browning, Becky Thomas, Carol Whitson, Tom Sturgis, Diane Miller, John Granrose, Heather Kleiner, Martha Beach, Tammy Bowman, Rose Ann Pace, John Gay, Cameron Steele, Nathan Parrish, Ed Spivey, Hannah Bennett, Anna Thornton, Sheryl King, James Morris, Tom Hiers, Jane Bowen, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Stephen Morris, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Cindy Beagle, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Christina K., August, Melissa, Karyna, Ben, Byron, Andi, Jennie, Benedict, Patrick, Pam, Robby, Cecil, Brooke, Jim, Dianne, Peter, Jason, Lynn, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, Buddy, Mike, and Margaret.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Jon Vail, Lee Ann Pingel, Ben Vick, Angela Greene, Carol Jones, and Megan Wickwire; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Paul & Rebecca Welch, Dallas Bono & Kendall Kookogey, and Luther & Carol Rogers.

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.

TODAY

LABYRINTH COMMITTEE MEETING

The Labyrinth Committee will meet today in the library immediately following the 10:30AM service. If you would like to participate in the creation of a permanent labyrinth on the grounds of St. Gregory's or have ideas pertaining to such (i.e. where/what shape/what materials), please join us!

FAITH AND NATURE SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASSES CONTINUE NEXT WEEK (see below)

THIS WEEK

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACATION

Kendall will be out of the office Monday, May 23 - Thursday, May 26.

BLINDSPOT MOVIE NIGHT | FRIDAY, MAY 27

Calling all those in our Blindspot (20s and 30s)! Join us at University 16 cinemas to see *Dr. Strange: Multiverse of Madness*! (time TBD)

NEXT WEEK

FAITH AND NATURE | SUNDAY, MAY 29 @ 2:30PM

Please join us for a Spiritual Formation series on the intersection of faith and nature. The series will have different presenters on an array of topics over 5 weeks on Sunday afternoons/evenings.

5/15: 6:45 pm, Celtic Traditions, Ellen Richardson (at their home)

5/29: 2:30 pm, Buddhism and Nature, Gene Ruffin

6/5: 6:30 pm, Faith in Action, Tyra Byers

6/12: 7pm, Hildegard and Teilhard, the Green Mystics, Lee Ann Pingel (@ St. G's)

6/19: TBA, Creation Care, Jason Roberts

Each session will be about an hour (plus travel time if the session is not at the church) and will include a presentation, some meditative practice in nature, some group conversation/reflection on the program, and some communal liturgy.

The next session is on May 29th and will be an introduction to Buddhist, Interbeing, and Nature led by Gene Ruffin. The session will explore some of the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh through meditation, liturgy, and discussion. It will be held at St. Gregory's at 2:30 pm.

The third session on June 5th will be led by Tyra Byers and will focus on practical ways in which we can respond in faith to the climate crisis. This session will be held at Ron and Jane's farm.

Contact Ron Balthazor (ron.balthazor@gmail.com) for more information.

COMING UP ...

YOUTH GAME NIGHT | SATURDAY, JUNE 4

All youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to a monthly game night in the youth room at 6pm on the first Saturday of each month, beginning on June 4th. Come, bring your friends and a favorite snack!

NOTES

BLINDSPOT GROUP CHAT

Send your name and phone number to Wade McGlamery at 770-624-4837 to be added to the group chat for our 20s and 30s group! Make sure you have downloaded WhatsApp.

USHERS NEEDED

It is true, I must confess That we need folks To help process us To the alter.

In rows we go A sacred flow. As hearts, unite With delight In his communion.

A holy duty
To serve as usher
And, help the Church avoid a crusher.
Humbly, I beseech thee,
To volunteer would be so peachy!

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to usher! **We still need 8 more volunteers to fill out the roster, so that we don't over-burden the group we have now!** If you would like to volunteer, and/or coordinate, please contact Anna Hiers, vestry liaison to the Worship Committee, at Email: aldhiers@gmail.com, or 706-340-9799. Training will be provided.

COFFEE HOUR

Due to a lack of volunteers, there may or may not be coffee hour on any given Sunday. If you are able to host or bring a baked item for a future coffee hour, contact Melissa or Catrina to sign up. A sign up sheet will also be posted at the event. Melissa Hamlin- melmariehamlin@gmail.com - 8AM service Catrina King - Catrina.anirtac@gmail.com - 10:30AM service

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Gail Eilers

Readers: Carolyn Abney (8AM) George Krause (10:30AM)

EMs: Beth Thornton & Karen Hankins Crucifers: Porter Welch & Wade McGlamery Torches: Anna Thornton & Gavin Avinger Flowers: Janet Patterson

Altar Guild: David Lowe & Berni McCranie Counters: Stacie Court & Angela Greene

Livestream: Pete Nicholls

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

Terri Tillman WebMaster *ttillman@gmail.com*

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

Joseph Napoli Choir Director awn1984@att.net | 706-546-6638

Doug Adkins Director of Children's Ministries *jdadkins@hotmail.com* | 706-474-4784

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

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

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

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Vestry Members: Eddie Bennett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; Jane Hudson; LeeAnne Krause; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

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