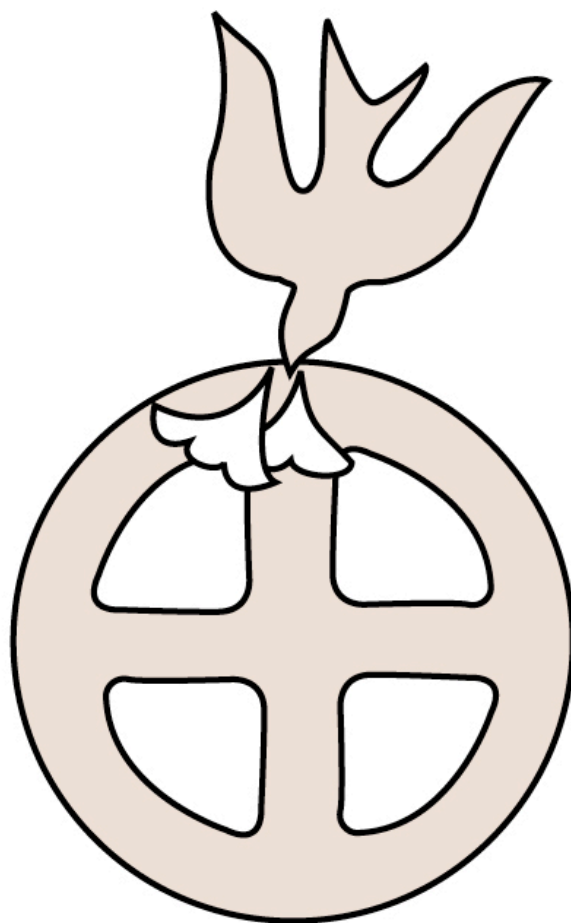


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



JULY 26, 2020

PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM

W/ ONLINE COFFEE HOUR BEGINNING AT 10:15AM

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 12

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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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Hymn 9

*Not here for high and holy things*

MORNING SONG



\*1 Not here for high and ho - ly things we ren - der thanks to  
 \*2 the ro - yal robes of au - tumn moors, the gold - en gates of  
 \*3 of faith and hope and love un - dimmed, un - dy - ing still through  
 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  
 2 spring, the vel - vet of soft sum - mer nights, the  
 3 death, the re - sur - rec - tion of the world, what  
 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  
 2 sil - ver glis - te - ring of all the mil - lion  
 3 time there comes the breath of dawn that rus - tles  
 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,  
 2 mil - lion stars, the si - lent song they sing,  
 3 through the trees, and that clear voice that saith:  
 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.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Celebrant: *Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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

*read by Everett Krause*

Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23**

*Spoken by all*

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \* and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \* but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before \* and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \* it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \* where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \* if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning \* and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \* and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \* and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; \* darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \* try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \* and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

1

Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

and its right-eous - ness, and all these things shall be  
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*

2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

*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 387

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, Paul, and Don, and all priests and deacons, especially Nikki & 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. ...

#### A PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*people may stand*)

BCP 360

*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.**

#### THE PEACE

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### Offertory Anthem

*I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies*

Felix Mendelssohn

I will sing of thy great mercies, O Lord,  
of thy mercies, O Lord, my Savior.

I will sing of thy great mercies, O Lord, and of thy faithfulness evermore.

*Kendall Marie Kookogey, soprano*

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

*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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Here a Proper Preface can be said*)

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:

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

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

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**

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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 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 615

“Thy kingdom come!”

ST. FLAVIAN

1 “Thy king - dom come!” on bend - ed knee the pass - ing a - ges pray;  
 2 But the slow watch - es of the night not less to God be - long;  
 3 And lo, al - rea - dy on the hills the flags of dawn ap - pear;  
 4 the day to whose clear shin - ing light all wrong shall stand re - vealed,  
 5 when know - ledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth a - broad;

1 and faith - ful souls have yearned to see on earth that king - dom’s day.  
 2 and for the ev - er - last - ing right the si - lent stars are strong.  
 3 gird up your loins, ye pro - phet souls, pro - claim the day is near:  
 4 when jus - tice shall be throned in might, and ev - ery hurt be healed;  
 5 the day of per - fect right - eous - ness, the prom - ised day of God.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

Fellowship Music

Siroë

Charles Callahan

*The flowers are dedicated by Marilyn Walsh  
 to the honor and glory of God  
 and in loving memory of Timothy Cooper Walsh.*

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## Backpacks and Binders for Homeless Students - UPDATE

The Clarke County School year begins **September 8**. Several hundred homeless children and youth in Athens-Clarke County begin the school year without adequate school supplies. The economic impact of COVID-19 makes the need even greater this year! Even though we have now learned ACC schools will start with online learning only, these supplies will still be needed in the future, and your monetary donations could be used for other expenses that arise.



St. Gregory parishioners have always been generous with donating backpacks and binders (the two most needed items) and other school supplies for elementary, middle, and high school students. This year you can contribute in three ways:

1. Make an [online donation](#) through REALM. Select the Outreach option when making your contribution. Include Backpacks and Binders in the memo line.
2. Write a check to St. Gregory the Great and mail to the parish. Include Backpacks and Binders in the memo line of your check.
3. Bring backpacks and binders to the church. Call Kendall in advance to let her know you are dropping off your items.

Monetary contributions should be received by **5:00PM Thursday, August 20**, allowing Clarke County Homeless Education staff time to purchase supplies for students prior to the school year start. Backpacks and binders should be delivered to the parish by **5:00PM Thursday, August 20**.

Contact Rhonda Packer [packer.rhonda@gmail.com](mailto:packer.rhonda@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Thank you for your support.

*St. Gregory Outreach Committee*

### Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Sybil Lott, Carol Schwenke, Ron Balthazor, Doug Welch, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Carol Jones, Ray Gotko, Rose Ann Pace, Aaron Muckin, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, Alice Hunt, George Watson, Conoly Hester, Deborah Freeman, Catherine Hartley, Terri Dotson, Mary Parkman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Sandy Elhenicky, Susan Kuzia, Shelby Welch, Sarah Gordon, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Martha Beach, Jack Beach, Tammy Bishop, Cecil Miller, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Kim Rider, Patrick Dean, Harold Tillman, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Ben, Anna, Fritz, Faye, Neal, Ann, Paula, John, Gwen, Barbara, Dusty, Daniel, Michael, Michelle, Meredith, Heather, Matt, Pete, Sophia, Jill, Ruth, Samantha, Jennifer, Chip, and Buddy.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week:** Chiara Bono, Janet Patterson, Emma Davis, Daniel Nakano, Amy Kuhn, and Daphne Blackburn; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Stephen Corn & Dolores Holt, Hank & Margarett Fowler, and Steven & Sandy Gamble.

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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.*

## Clergy and Staff

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**Nursery Attendants:** Missy Hamlin, Megan Reuter, Allison Weaver

**Vestry Members:** Kathryn Musholt, *Sr. Warden*; Kelly Black, *Jr. Warden*, Jack Armistead; Eddie Bennett; Rhonda Hefner-Packer; Jane Hudson; Marge Massey; Caley Ross; Beth Thornton; Chrissy Moffett, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

**Vestry Person of the Day/Week:** Kelly Black [kjblack@gmail.com](mailto:kjblack@gmail.com)

