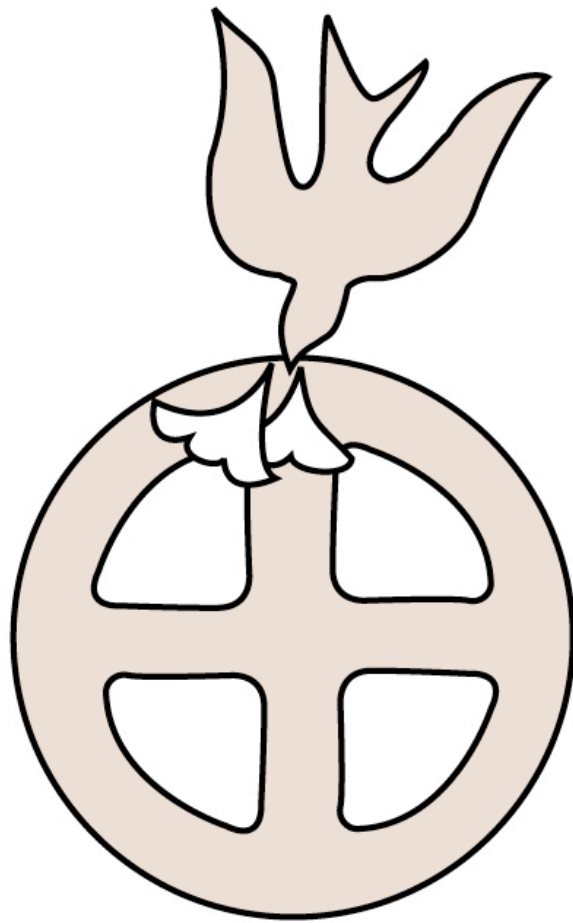


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



AUGUST 15, 2021
PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST
The 12th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 15

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 432

O praise ye the Lord!

LAUDATE DOMINUM

1 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
 2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him up - on earth;
 *3 O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
 4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanks - giv - ing and song

re - joice in his word, ye an - gels of light;
 in tune - ful ac - cord, all ye of new birth;
 each ju - bi - lant chord re - ech - o a - round;
 to him be out - poured all a - ges a - long!

ye hea - vens, a - dore him by whom ye were made,
 praise him who hath brought you his grace from a - bove,
 loud or - gans, his glo - ry forth tell in deep tone,
 For love in cre - a - tion, for hea - ven re - stored,

and wor - ship be - fore him, in bright - ness ar - rayed.
 praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
 and sweet harp, the sto - ry of what he hath done.
 for grace of sal - va - tion, O praise ye the Lord!

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

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, hea - ven - 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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

read by Anna Hiers

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

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

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111

- 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! * they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, * and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; * the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; * he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works * in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; * all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, * because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Thanks be to God.

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
 all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
 thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
 Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

THE GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

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

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

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

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. ...

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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 Hymn 665

All my hope on God is founded

MICHAEL



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom
 *4 Dai - ly doth the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on
 5 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



1 trust re - new, me through change and chance he
 2 tray our trust; though with care and toil we
 3 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at -
 4 us be - stow; his de - sire our soul de -
 5 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es



1 guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -
 2 build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's
 3 tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought. Ev - e -
 4 ligh - teth, plea - sure leads us where we go. Love doth
 5 prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his Son. Christ doth



1 known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.
 2 power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
 3 rmore from his store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.
 4 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.
 5 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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. (*Proper Preface*)

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, hea - ven 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._____

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.

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 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

1 Lord, en - throned in heaven - ly splen - dor, first - be -
 *2 Here our hum - blest hom - age pay - we, here in
 *3 Though the low - liest form doth veil thee as of
 4 Pas - chal Lamb, thine of - fering, fi - nished once for
 5 Life - im - part - ing heaven - ly Man - na, smit - ten

1 got - ten from the dead. Thou a - lone, our strong de -
 2 lov - ing rev - erence bow; here for faith's dis - cern - ment
 3 old in Beth - le - hem, here as there thine an - gels
 4 all when thou wast slain, in its full - ness un - di -
 5 Rock with stream - ing side, heaven and earth with loud ho -

Al - le -

1 fend - er, lift - est up thy peo - ple's head.
 2 pray we, lest we fail to know thee now.
 3 hail thee, branch and flower of Jes - se's stem.
 4 min - ished shall for ev - er - more re - main.
 5 san - na wor - ship thee, the Lamb who died.

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

lu - ia!

1 Je - sus, true and liv - ing
 2 Thou art here, we ask not
 Al - le - lu - ia! 3 We in wor - ship join with
 4 Cleans - ing us from ev - ery
 5 Risen, a - scend - ed, glo - ri -

1 bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 2 how. Thou art here, we ask not how.
 3 them. We in wor - ship join with them.
 4 stain. Cleans - ing us from ev - ery stain.
 5 fied! Risen, a - scend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Fellowship Music

Be Thou My Vision

arr. M. Bober

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Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Bill Alworth, Jennifer Harding, Tess Varner, Paul Varner, James Morris, Tom Hiers, Steve Bailey, Paul Tolar, Joel Hunt, Mia Camoston, Rainsly Vogt, Jane Bowen, Marge Massey, Sheryl King, Doug Welch, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Rose Ann Pace, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, George Watson, Conoly Hester, Deborah Freeman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Jack Beach, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Mary Ellen, Lynn, Joshua, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Julia Adang, Marilyn Vickers, Emma Scott, Joseph Cook, Martha DeHart, Benjamin Compton, and Hank Fowler; **and for those celebrating their anniversaries:** Alex & Janet Patterson.

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

WELCOME BACK, WELCOME HOME | TODAY

We'll have pizza, watermelon, and customizable salads at the conclusion of the 10:30 service. Craft tents will have materials for the flock to create a fancy bird puppet or hat. Then we'll parade with our puppets around the grounds, concluding with prayer in the Memorial Garden at 1PM. Bring ukuleles or other strolling instruments if you have them. Masks are required except when eating. We'll be outdoors, with the option to be in the parish hall with all the doors open and ventilation system running, plus fans.

NEXT WEEK

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | SAT., AUGUST 28

The Rite of Christian Burial for Carl Hoveland will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, August 28 @ 5PM. We are in need of ushers, acolytes, and EMs for this service. If you can serve, please let Mother Nikki or Kendall know.

NOTES

REGATHERING INFORMATION

The ReGathering Committee continues to monitor COVID-19 cases in Clarke County. Since July 1, the daily number of reported cases in Clarke has risen but remains under 10 per 100,000. The committee is making contingency plans in case we need to step back. The following plan may be modified as conditions change.

- Preregistration and assigned seating will no longer be required. Social distancing should continue to be practiced.
- With the rising case load and new seating pattern, starting August 1 we are requesting that everyone regardless of their vaccination status wear a mask at all services.
- We are requesting that only fully vaccinated individuals attend the 8AM service.
- Fully vaccinated and those who have not been vaccinated are invited to the 10:30AM service.

Clergy and Staff

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

The Rev. Christina Dondero Deacon
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Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds
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Allena Armour Sexton
allenaarmour57@yahoo.com | 706-614-3704

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Megan Reuter, Allison Weaver

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: Blaine Everson doceverson@gmail.com