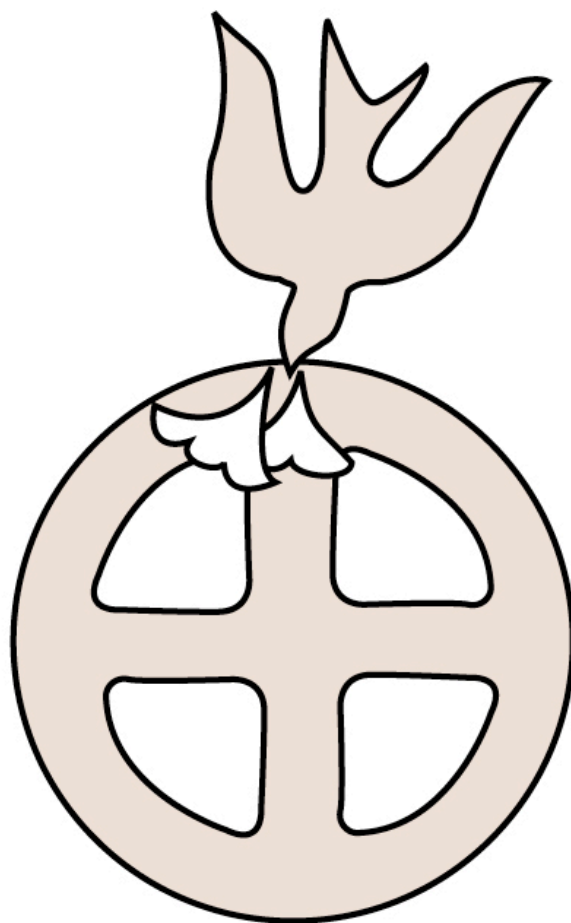


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



OCTOBER 4, 2020  
PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM  
W/ ONLINE COFFEE HOUR BEGINNING AT 10:15AM

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 22

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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 8

*Morning has broken*

BUNESSAN

*Unison or harmony*

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. \_\_\_\_\_  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass. \_\_\_\_\_  
 born of the one light E - den saw play! \_\_\_\_\_

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. \_\_\_\_\_  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! \_\_\_\_\_

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

BCP 355

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 - mighty - 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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE FIRST READING

*read by Carolyn Abney*

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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

## Psalm 19

*Spoken by all*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \* and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, \* and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, \* and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \* and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; \* the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; \* the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; \* the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \* sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \* and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \* cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

## THE SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

*Harmony*

Ev' - ry time I — feel the spir - it, — mov - ing

in my heart, — I will pray. — Ev' - ry time I — feel the

**Fine**

spir - it, — mov - ing in my heart, — I will pray.

*unison*

1. Up - on the moun - tain my — Lord spoke, out of his  
2. Jor-dan ri - ver chil-ly and cold, chills — the

(7)

1. mouth came — fire and smoke. — All a - round me looked so  
2. bod - y but not the soul. — There ain't but one train runs this

**D.C.**

1. fine, asked — my Lord if all was mine. —  
2. track, runs to heav - en and runs right back. —

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

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

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*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 Solo**

*Rise, Mourner*

Florence Price

*Deborah Stephens, 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



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!

## 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

*Allegro in G Minor (from Suite in G Minor)*

G. F. Handel

*The altar flowers are dedicated by Randall & Carolyn Abney  
 to the honor and glory of God  
 and in celebration of their wedding anniversary.*

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## Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Mark Goodwin, Jane Bowen, Barbara Kuhn, Mack Thurmond, Marge Massey, Kathryn Musholt, Dot Cooper, Allena Armour, Doug Welch, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Carol Jones, Rose Ann Pace, Aaron Muckin, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, Alice Hunt, 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, Harold Tillman, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Luisa, Shirley, Susan, Evelyn, Karin, Ben, Anna, Fritz, Faye, Neal, Ann, Paula, John, Gwen, Barbara, Dusty, Daniel, Michael, Michelle, Meredith, Heather, Matt, Pete, Sophia, Jill, Samantha, Jennifer, Chip, and Buddy.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week:** Pace Barkdoll, Zoe Corn, Jeff Scarbrough, Kendall Kookogey, Ava Brutzman, Lief Carter, and Mack Thurmond; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Randall & Carolyn Abney, Mia & Patrice Camoston, Sam & Suzy Preston, and Joe Weinmeister & Michelle Vecchio-Weinmeister.

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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

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

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

**Terri Tillman and Anthony Barkdoll** Audiovisual Technicians  
tillman@gmail.com; anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

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

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

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

**Catherine Drewry** Director of Children's Ministries  
cbdrewry@gmail.com | 706-201-7241

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

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

**Allena Armour** Sexton  
allenaarmour57@yahoo.com | 706-614-3704

**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:** Beth Thornton [whinygirl@gmail.com](mailto:whinygirl@gmail.com)

