



Grace Episcopal Church
 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
 February 12, 2023
 The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

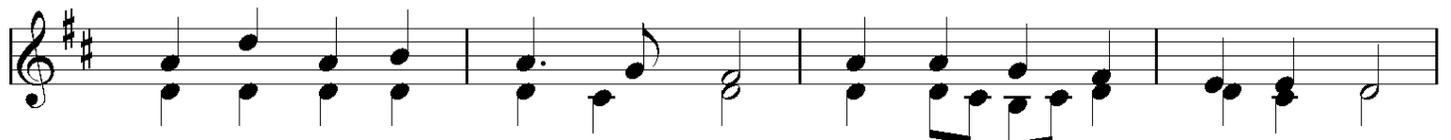
Reflection on "Nur Den Lieben Gott" (If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee)
 - G. Neumark

PROCESSION HYMN #135

Songs of thankfulness and praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
 4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
 and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
 man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
 When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

GLORIA #S278 (*Sung by all*)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Lector A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:1-8 (*responsively, by whole verse*)

¹ Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!

² **Happy are they who observe his decrees
and seek him with all their hearts!**

³ Who never do any wrong,
but always walk in his ways.

⁴ **You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

⁵ Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

⁶ **Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷ I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,
when I have learned your righteous
judgments.

⁸ **I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

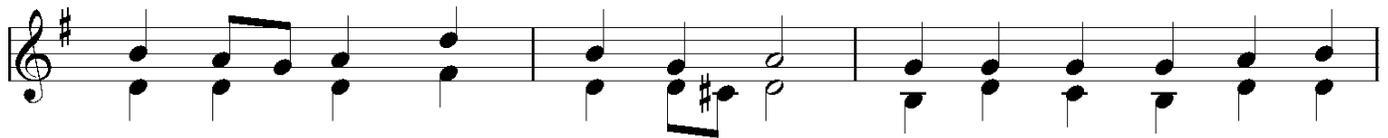
1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Lector A reading from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
 2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -



hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,



now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy



pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
 Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

THE GOSPEL*Matthew 5:21-37*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

-- The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #440 (v. 3)

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Edward Kelaher

358 THE NICENE CREED

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.

392 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM VI)

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; we pray for Joe our President, Roy our Governor, Jason our Mayor, and John our Councilman;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Samuel and Jennifer our Bishops; and Ed our Priest; and all other bishops and ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Silence*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially Cameron Klass, Julia Klass, and Josey Parker,

and those with special needs:

Abby Gibby, **Fred** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **David** Barkston, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Gayle** Burke, **Emily** Duquette Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Linda** Clodfelter, **Morgan** Curia, **Tracy** Davis, **Barbara** Dixon, **Anita** Ewbank, **Renee** Ewbank, **Charlotte** Froehlich, **Marc** Frye, **Jenny** Gallen and family, **Shana** Garland, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Jon** Huff, **Jahiya** Huntley, **Kathy** Johnson, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Cara** Lee, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Roan** Mitchell, **Dan & Fran** Moore, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Gilliam** Nicholson, **Harriett** Owens, **Howard** Palmer, **Lynn** Parsley, **Bill** Phillipps, **Gabby** Plott, **Anne** Rives, **Libby** Robert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Tommy** Shaw, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Louise** Snyder, **Peggy** Snyder, **Jackie** Touchton, **Laura** Turlington, **Darla** Tysinger, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke, **Kathy** Watson, **Flynn** Williams, **Mary and Jay** Williams, **Susan and Brian** Wilson, **Vickie** Wolfe, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

Hear us, Lord; *For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence*

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*

Please kneel if you are able.

Celebrant and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

Please stand if you are able

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Give Thanks - D. Wagner

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offering is brought forward as the hymn is played.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS DOXOLOGY #397 (v. 1)

*Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

367 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him 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.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

SANCTUS #S125 *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

The people may stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.**

364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine.

Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally.

If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

366 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant and People

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

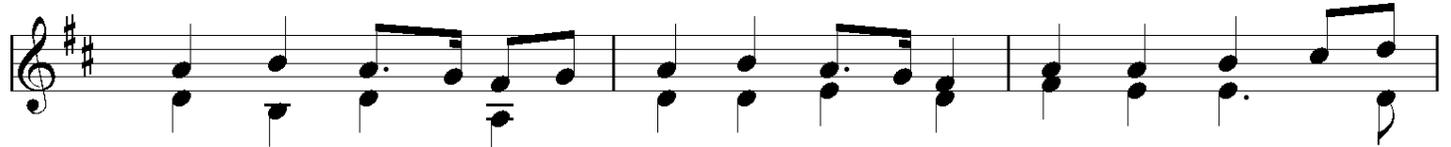
Please stand if you are able

May the love which overcomes all differences, which heals all wounds, which puts to flight all fears, which reconciles all who are separated, be in us and among us, now and always, **Amen.**

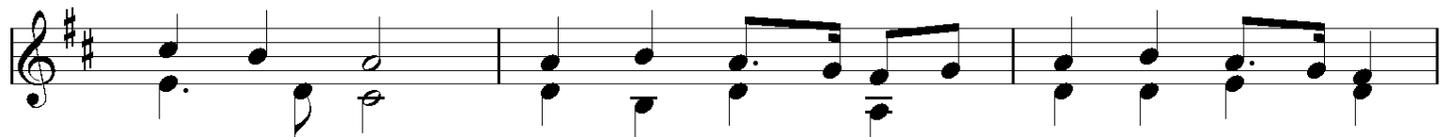
And the blessing of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and for ever more. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL HYMN #344

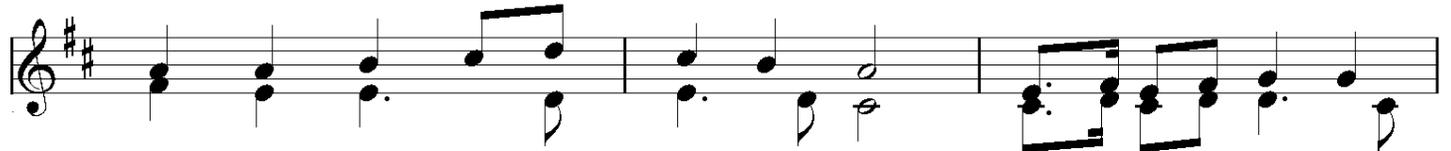
Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the



joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

366 THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Azmon" (O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing) - D. Phillips

*The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Barbara Presnell
in celebration of the birth of Tripp Bunting Keesler
and in honor of his parents, Will Keesler and Mary Ellen Whitford,
and Tripp's big brother, Ward.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

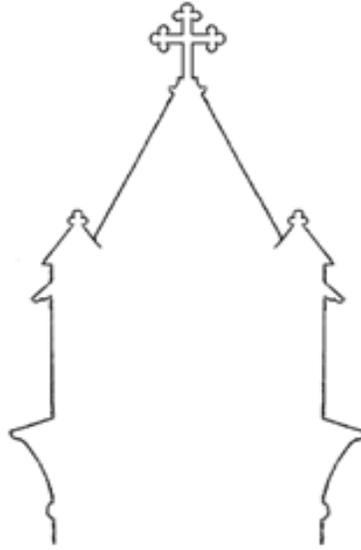
Lector: Kathie Goodman	Greeter: Sandra Husted
Intercessor: Melissa and David Thayer	LEM: Staley Nance
Ushers: Tommy Black, Richard Wolfe	Acolytes: Owen Miller, Cooper Petruzzi, and Chandler Allred
Audio Visual: David Jones, Russ Johnson	

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the Undercroft (beneath the church) for refreshments and conversation. **Today our hosts are Barbara Presnell and Tere Wagner.**

The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**419 S. Main Street
Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234
phone: 336-249-7211
fax: 336-249-8711**

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org
www.gracelexingtonnc.org

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop
The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop
The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager

THE VESTRY

2023

Walter Beeker
David Jones Jr. Warden
Cathy Riggan
Robin Sink

2024

Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Logan Sheets
Susan Terrell Clerk
Kathy Young

2025

Wes Allred Sr. Warden
Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer
Marjorie Parker Asst. Clerk
Marilyn Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for February is Kathy Young.