

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHORAL EUCHARIST

December 24, 2024 at 10 p.m.

WELCOME



TO ST. JAMES'S

St. James's is a vibrant, inclusive, fun-loving, child-friendly community of faith. No matter where you are in your journey, we welcome you to join us on ours.

In this service of Holy Eucharist we give thanks to God and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ proclaimed. Educational programs afford parishioners of all ages the opportunity to engage their own beliefs and practices as well as those of others.

Empowered by God we go forth into the wider world to serve others in our lives, schools, and workplaces.

COVER ART: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Icon, anonymous.

Christmas flowers have been given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for

The Sweeney Grandchildren

Brayden, Kylie, & Jessie

Millie & Channing Hooper

The Jackson Grandsons

In Loving Memory of

Hugh MacGillis, Jim Cordeira, Bill Nellen, Ann Painter,
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kinney, Mr. & Mrs. Anson Duncan,
Mary S. Meyer, Jan Bonner, Ken, Anne, & Scott Moyle,
William F. Duva, Sr., Herbert & Julia Nelson, Diane Thompson,
William & Nellie Thompson, Robert & Eleanor Mix, Pamela Ludford,
Marilyn Stapleton, Robert Kelly, Gary Lattanzio, Jean Lane,
Jeanne & Jack Bausmith, Edward Peters, Dr. Russell O. Gee,
David D. Thomas, Theodora & William Holman, Jean & John Thomas,
Osborne Lawes, Kenneth & Elizabeth Cloud, Nancy Sibio,
Robert G. Seelhorst, Sr., Sophie & Herman Hoetzle,
Tom Desmond, Howard C. & Alice Goddard, Florence & Carl Russo,
Norman & Florence Madore, Earl & Joan Keesling, Louise Keesling,
Barbara & James Cooper, Jan Hooper, Lucy & Tom Welch, The Lopez Family,
Francesca Haar Nixon, John Clement & Helen M. Haar, Michael A. Lamy,
Douglass & Eugenie Compton, Eugenie French, Charles Borda,
Charles Sherrill, William & Carol Teasdale, Esty Collet, Charles G. Fisher.

CHORAL PRELUDE AT 9:30

<i>Meditation on Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	James Southbridge
<i>Prelude on Greensleeves</i>	Searle Wright (1918-2004)
<i>Fum, Fum, Fum</i>	Catalonian folksong
<i>Medley of Carols</i>	Norman Dello Joio (1913-2008)
<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	Polish Carol, arr. David Willcocks
<i>Coventry Carol</i>	Traditional
<i>I Wonder as I Wander</i>	Appalachian Carol, arr. John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)
<i>The Angel Gabriel</i>	Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)
<i>Torches, Torches</i>	John Joubert (1927-2019)
<i>For Unto Us a Child Is Born (from Messiah)</i>	G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

All stand and sing the

OPENING HYMN

Once in royal David's city

Irby

(verse 1 sung by Benjamin Dollar – please join in singing on verses 2-6)



1. Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. And through all
His wondrous childhood,
He would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly mother,
In whose gentle arms He lay.
Christian children all should be,
Mild, obedient, good as He.

4. For He is our child-hood's pattern
Day by day like us He grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew,
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall be around.

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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 IN EXCELSIS

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -

- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Title: *Angles we have heard on high (Gloria)*

Words: *French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), slt.*

Music: *Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).*

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COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray... O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The people sit

THE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people

exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96 (*sung by the choir*)

Plainchant

Cantate Domino

Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
 he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
 before the Lord when he comes, *
 when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *
 and the peoples with his truth.

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

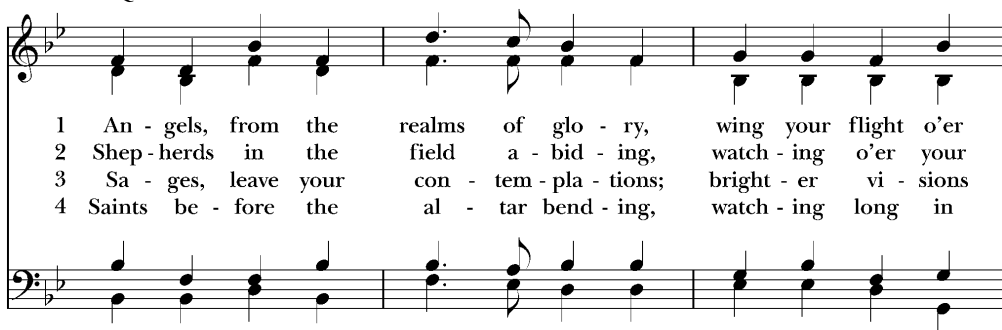
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand for the singing of the hymn and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Title: Angel from the realms of glory Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.

Music: Regent Square

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All remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Priest The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor

of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The people sit

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Robert M. Lofberg

All stand

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Leader In peace, let us pray to God, saying *God, hear us and help us!*

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.
God of the prophets, hear us and help us!

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence into the world. Give
the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace throughout the earth.

God of the angels, hear us and help us!

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to be pregnant with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world.

God of our mothers, hear us and help us!

God of Joseph and Zechariah, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

God of our fathers, hear us and help us!

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness, alone and afraid, a light from heaven proclaiming peace.

God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!

God of the magi, give your church gifts, and the will to leave home to find you among the poor.

God of the magi, hear us and help us!

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

God of the victim, hear us and help us!

God our Sovereign, you are always coming into the world. Come to us now, soon, and forever, and let us receive you as the Child of holiness and the Wind of change, through whom, this day, we pray. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

The people sit

THE RECTOR'S WELCOME

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There is No Rose

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

Celebrant: 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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Title: *Holy, holy, holy*, from *Deutsche Messe* Music: Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)
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Celebrant continues:

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,

Celebrant and People

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

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 James and 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 God, now and forever.

Celebrant and People **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

THE FRACTION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

THE INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

AT COMMUNION *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
In the Bleak Midwinter Harold Darke (1888-1976)

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

Silent Night

Stille Nacht



1. Silent night, holy night,
 all is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace.
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
 shepherds quake at the sight,
 glories streams from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
 Christ the Savior, is born!
 Christ the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night; Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 repeat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Title: *Joy to the World* Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*
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DISMISSAL

Priest Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Fantasy on "Antioch"* Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

CELEBRANT - The Rev'd Robert C. Hooper, III

PREACHER - The Rev'd Robert M. Lofberg

ASSISTING CLERGY- The Rev'd Dr. Molly F. James

ST. JAMES'S CHOIR

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Michelle Horsley

SOLOISTS - Benjamin Dollar, Lee Dollar, Lindsay Fawber, Mara Suttman-Lea

VIOLINS - John and Samantha Kramer

VIOLA - Virginia Kramer / CELLO - David Kramer

PIANO - Thomas Tarutin / OBOE - Lily Owens

CHALICE BEARERS - Matt Schott, John Wadsworth

LECTOR - Mark Moyle

INTERCESSOR - Rob King

ACOLYTE - Quinn Ciccone

USHERS - Mike Shuey, Ted Newton, Daniel and Ellen Dollar

ALTAR GUILD - Kim Hart-Kindelberger, Chris Keesling, Elizabeth Gallegos

LIVESTREAM DIRECTOR - Jerrod Bowman



SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

8 a.m. in the chapel

9:30 a.m. in the church

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST

7 a.m. in the chapel

(Breakfast served in the parish room following the service)



Make a pledge to St. James's

We are a vibrant, inclusive, fun-loving, child-friendly community of faith. No matter where you are in your journey, we welcome you to join us on ours...

Tel 860.521.9620
 Info@stjameswh.org



ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 19 Walden Street, West Hartford, Connecticut 06107

www.stjameswh.org

CLERGY

The Rev'd Robert C. Hooper III..... *Rector*
 The Rev'd Robert M. Lofberg..... *Assistant Rector*
 The Rev'd Canon Douglas T. Cooke..... *Priest Associate*
 The Rev'd Doctor Molly F. James..... *Priest Associate*
 The Rev'd Canon John L.C. Mitman..... *Priest Associate*
 The Rev'd Doctor Borden W. Painter Jr..... *Priest Associate*
 The Rev'd Joan P. Phelps..... *Priest Associate*

STAFF

Mrs. Cheryl C. Batter..... *Parish Administrator*
 Mr. Leon Fraser..... *Sexton*
 Mrs. Priscilla Hooper..... *Director of Family Ministries*
 Ms. Michelle Horsley..... *Organist & Director of Music*
 Mrs. Stephanie Latif..... *Financial Secretary*

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Mr. Harry Meyer..... *Assistant Treasurer*

VESTRY

Mr. Ted Newton..... *Senior Warden*
 Mr. Tyler Smith..... *Junior Warden*
 Mrs. Kerri Raissian..... *Clerk*
 Mr. Michael Sherrill..... *Treasurer*

2025	2026	2027
Bob Bausmith	Chuck Kinney	Doug Compton
Ellen Dollar	Ruth Mitman	Joey Meyer
Kim Hart-Kindelberger	Barbara Rua	Liz Normand
Judith Stahl	Bill Thompson	Marilyn Tomlinson