



Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

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www.christchurchbluefield.org



September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Being Proper 19 of the Church Year

A Service of Holy Eucharist



Welcome to this Place of Prayer

This bulletin contains our liturgy today. If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (from the usher) and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

Opening Sentences

Please stand

The Celebrant says

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

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

The Celebrant then says

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.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

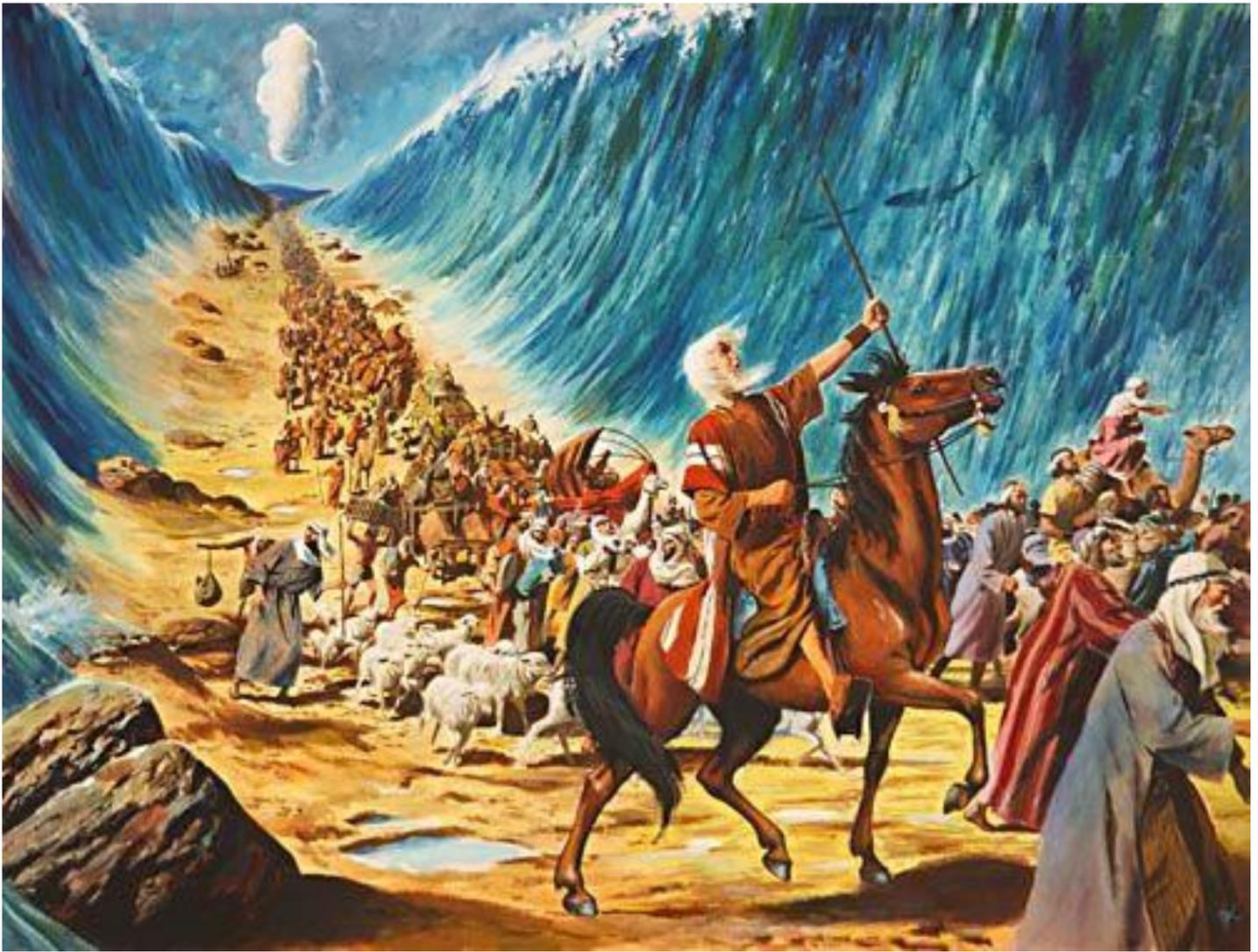
The Congregation may then be seated.

The First Lesson

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so, the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."



Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus, the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So, the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Said together

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So, the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So, my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

the Rev. Chad Slater

The Nicene Creed

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith. Please stand.

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.

The Prayers of the People (Form IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Mike, our Bishop, for Fr. Chad, our Priest. Father, we pray for the congregation of Transfiguration of Buckhannon and St. Paul's of Weston, with the Rev. John Valentine, and in Our Companion Diocese of Colombia The Rev. Jose Romero of Mision Divino Salvador. We pray also for those engaged in mission and ministry here at Christ Church, especially, the Vestry, with Becky Beckett, our Senior Warden and Tom Coughlin our Junior Warden.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, especially Donald, our President, Jim and Ralph, our governors, and Ron & Don, our mayors, and all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Samantha Kinney, Will Czarnik, Becky Beckett, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially those listed in our bulletin and all those we remember now either silently or aloud.

And all those whose need for healing is known to You alone. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died. We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer For New Bishop Search

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have created each person with many and varied gifts and joined our lives together as members of the Diocese of West Virginia. Look graciously upon us as we search for our 8th Bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Give us minds to discern your will, courage to follow where you lead, and hearts to love as you command, to the glory of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confession & Absolution

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Celebrant says

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

We share the joy of the Good News!

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord by waving their hands.
No physical touching at this time, please.*

Announcements

Information for the good of the parish is shared at this time.

Individuals may share personal news at this time as well in order to foster fellowship.



The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass* Offertory

Eucharistic Prayer

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say 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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

The Celebrant continues

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

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be said

Officiant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

This prayer is for all those who, for various reasons, are unable to partake of the Holy Eucharist but otherwise earnestly desire to do so.

Celebrant

The receipt of the bread and wine, which is the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In as much as you would like to partake of this holy food, the spiritual grace provided by the same is supplied to you.

Assisting Minister

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated. I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing—simply cross your arms in front of you approach the priest. Each row, beginning in the front, should come up to the chancel step to receive the Blessed Bread. The Chalice cannot be offered at this time by direction of the Bishop of West Virginia. Once the priest has dropped the Blessed Bread in your hand you should return by the side aisle to your pew. Once a row has been Communed, the next is free to come to the chancel steps.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Our Prayer after Communion

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing over the people.

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! *We respond to this instruction with: Thanks be to God!*

The Altar Flowers are given today by
Jim and Chris Justice in memory of loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Altar Guild Mimi Merritt Teresa Paine Linda Ammar

Last Sunday's Attendance

29

Birthdays This Week: Samantha Kinney, Will Czarnik, Becky Beckett

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, the Riddle Family, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome and her son Randy, David, the Vinson Family, Joe Graham's family



Calendar of Events

Sunday – September 13

Bagging for Food Pantry after Church

Wednesday – September 16

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – September 17

Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am

Wednesday - September 23

Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

UTO Fall Ingathering: The United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program of The Episcopal Church. It is a practice in our life in Christ that begins with daily prayers and gifts of thanksgiving. These gifts of thanksgiving are combined with others at parish and diocesan celebrations and finally within all of The Episcopal Church. The Offerings totaling nearly \$3 million each year are given away in the form of grants. These grants continue to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the Church throughout the world. Every penny of the Offerings is allocated each year for grants. Our Fall Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will take place every Sunday in September. Place your offering in the plate marked “UTO”.

Meals: Anyone interested in taking a meal to Don and Mary Catherine Williams while she is recovering from surgery, please call Patty Richardson at: 304-952-8502.

Online Bible Study: Join us on Wednesday's at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week's email. A link to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information please see Fr. Chad.

Masks: We are still accepting masks to give to church members who would like to attend services but do not have one. If you would like to contribute, please see Pastor Paul.

Bishop Search Survey: A link to an online survey from the Bishop Search Committee will be posted on social media and by our weekly email. Please take the time to complete this survey and help the Search Committee in its important task. If you prefer, a paper survey can be supplied to you. Please

see Fr. Chad or Susanne Pulse, a member of the Bishop Search Committee, for more information. Thank you!

Family Eucharists: Fr. Chad is offering the opportunity for anyone who, for any reason, is unable to come to worship on Sunday mornings during the pandemic to arrange a time to receive Holy Eucharist in a private setting at the Church. This may be for individuals or families. Please see Fr. Chad for more information or to recommend he contact an individual about this opportunity.

Pet Blessing Service: We will hold a joint Pet Blessing service in the parking lot on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 11:00am.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Paul Barker

the Rev. Russ Hatfield

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Pastor

Guest Celebrant

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden