

Welcome

Welcome to Grace & Holy Trinity. Ever aspiring to be more like Christ, we are a warm and welcoming Episcopal parish, inclusive to all, and mindful of the needs of others. We hope you will find a family here with us, whether you are a college student, Richmond newcomer, out-of-towner, or a long-time resident looking for a new church home. We open our arms and our hearts to you! If you are visiting, please fill out the Connect Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate during the service. Sign up for the Weekly News with the Connect Card or at ghtc.org/news. Children and Youth activities are located in the second floor classrooms in the Parish House. A wonderful nursery staff is available from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. should you wish to drop off your infant during worship. We also provide children's bulletins for children wishing to stay with their parents. If young children get restless, you are welcome to use our library. Changing tables are located in the family restroom near the choir room. A greeter can direct you. Information about Complimentary Sunday Parking can be found in the back of this bulletin or on the Connect Table in the hallway across from the library.

Today's Worship Participants

The Reverend Gregory Bezilla, Celebrant & Preacher
Andrew Peacock, Lector
Abigail Stinnett, Cantor
Fielding Williams, Usher

The Word of God

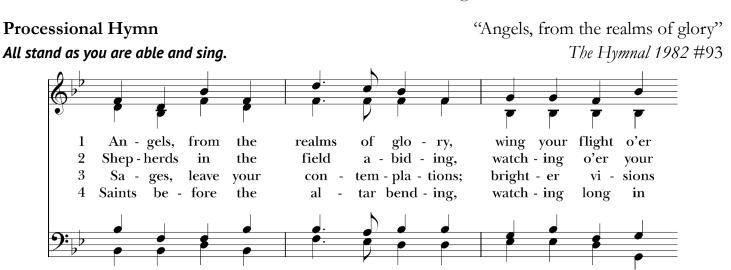
The Prelude marks the beginning of our worship and is intended as a time of quiet prayer and reflection for all. **Please silence your devices.**



Prelude

"Greensleeves" | Richard Purvis

Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, Organist



1



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.

Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

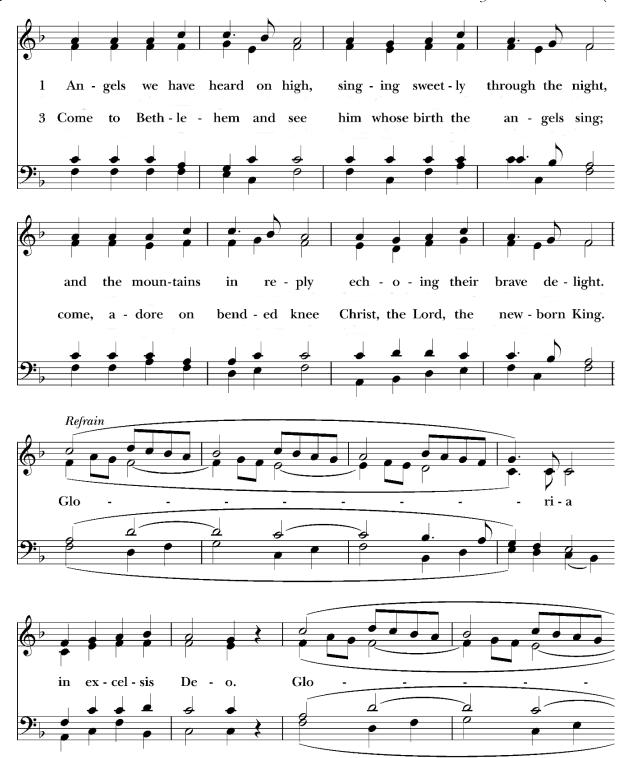
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

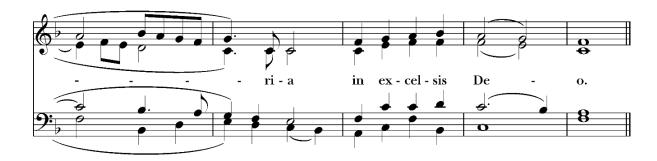
All And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





Setting: John Rutter (b. 1945)

The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 213

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector A reading from Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 BCP p. 727

Responsively by whole verse.

Cantate Domino

Lector 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

All 2 With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.

- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; * lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12

Lector A reading from Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When

he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed youwith the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

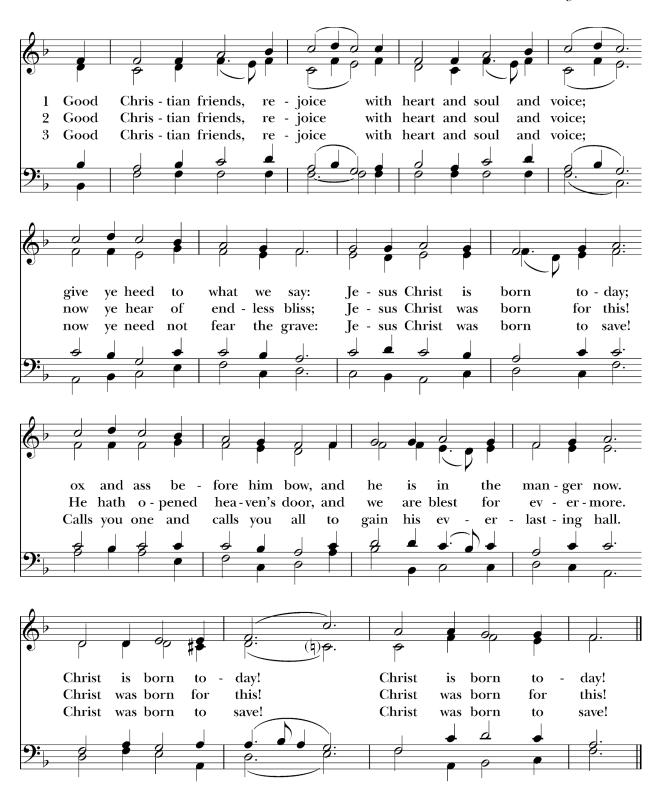
Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Please stand as you are able and sing.

The Hymnal 1982 #107



Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

The Gospel John 1:1-14

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

BCP p. 358

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Gregory Bezilla

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able and say,

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 VI | BCP p. 392

Celebrant In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Lector For all people in their daily life and work;

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

Lector For this community, the nation, and the world;

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

Lector For the just and proper use of your creation;

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

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

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

Lector For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

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

Lector For Michael, Mark, Gayle, Bud, and Susan our Bishops; and other ministers;

All For all who serve God in his Church.

Lector For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence | The People may add their own petitions.

Parish Prayer List

The Celebrant will read the names of those on the parish prayer list located in the back of the bulletin.

Lector Hear us, Lord;

All For your mercy is great.

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

Silence | The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Lector We will exalt you, O God our King;

All And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Lector 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.

Lector Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All Who put their trust in you.

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

Silence may be kept.

Leader 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.

The Celebrant 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 BCP p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence BCP p. 376

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2



This year's Christmas offering will go to The Shepherd's Center of Richmond. To donate or pay your pledge,

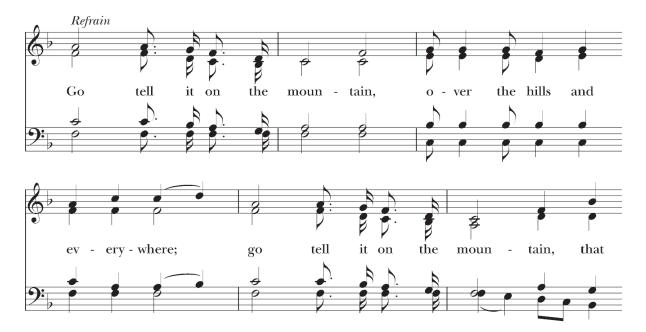
scan the QR code or visit ghtc.org/give.

Offertory Hymn

All stand as you are able and sing.

"Go tell it on the mountain"

The Hymnal 1982 #99





Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901)

Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

Doxology

The Hymnal 1982 #380 (v. 3)

All stand as you are able and sing.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

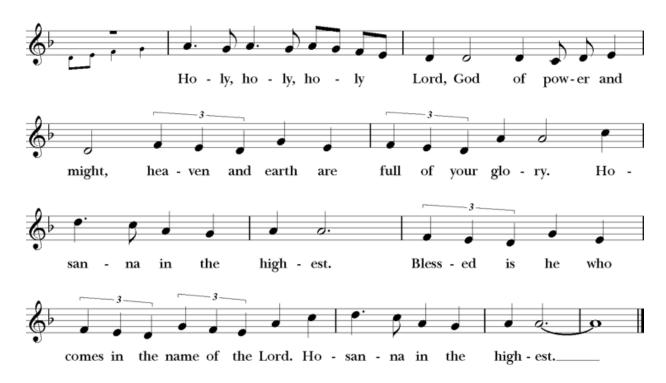
All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 & Benedictus *All sing*.

The Hymnal 1982 S 129



Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Please remain standing as you are able after the Sanctus and Benedictus.

The Celebrant continues with the Prayer of Thanksgiving. ...

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

The Celebrant continues with the Prayer of Thanksgiving. ...

Celebrant 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 p. 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, 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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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 baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion.

If you would like to speak to a priest about baptism, please contact The Rev. Greg Bezilla at

(804) 359-5628 x17or email at gbezilla@ghtc.org.

(additional Communion information continues on next page)

Those who prefer to receive the sacrament while seated in the congregation will be communed in their pews. Please raise your bulletin and the Eucharistic Ministers will bring the sacrament to you.

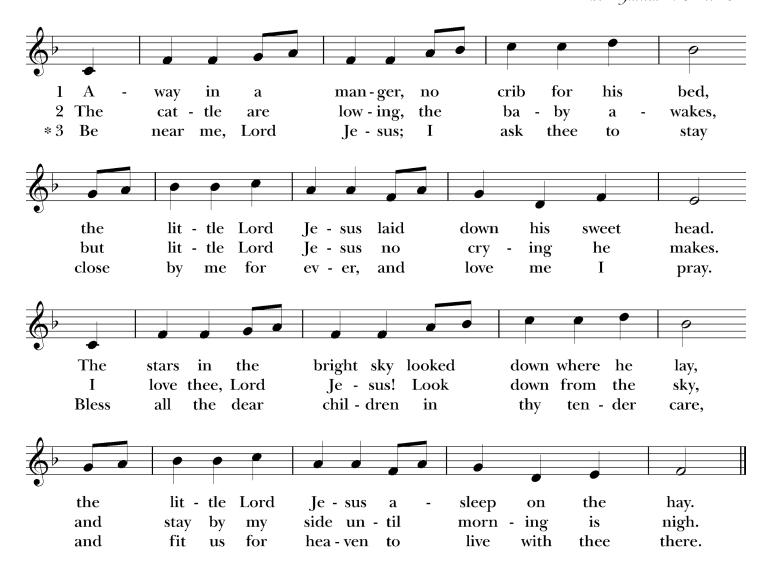
For a **gluten-free wafer**, please bring a blue gluten-free card from the pew rack to the altar rail. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you may come forward for a blessing.

Communion Hymn No. 1

"In the bleak midwinter" *The Hymnal 1982* #112



Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) | Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)



Words: Traditional carol | Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-12921)

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 366

Please kneel as you are able and say,

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.

Celebrant May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Recessional Hymn All stand as you are able and sing.

"God rest you merry gentlemen" The Hymnal 1982 #105



Words: London carol, 18th cent.

Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850

The Dismissal BCP p. 366

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

"Joy to the World" | Brenda Portman

Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, Organist

Release Information

Photographs and video of our services help keep our community connected and give visitors an idea of what to expect attending our church. If you do not want to be photographed or appear in our live and recorded services, please let an usher know so that you can be seated in an area that is not visible on camera.

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Christmas Poinsettia Flower Memorials

Rudy & Joyce Abramson
William Minter Anders
Mary & Richard Arrington
Gladys & Tarleton Bowles
Margaret & Bowlman Bowles
John & Alicia Bradshaw
Michael Thomas Bradshaw
Grace W. Broaddus
Gray & Sallie Broaddus
Miriam Bruce

Helen, Jim Hamilton & Tennant Bryan

Harry & Burgess Burn Bebe Busby

James Robert Chaffin

The Reverend Dr. Edward Allen Coffey

Nell Crawford

Bill Cressall

John, Huntley, Jean & Sydney Davenport

John D. Davis

Thomas M. "Mac" Deadmore

William Roberts Derry

Anne Barrett Derry

Charlotte McKay DeShazo

Dr. & Mrs. G. S. Fitz-Hugh

Susan Harrison Fitz-Hugh

George M. Fitz-Hugh

Robert & Margaret Fleshman

James H. Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Elbert A. Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Tarrant Fox

Rowan Francis

Elmon Taylor Gray

Pamela Burnside Gray

Gordan Haaland

Mr. & Mrs. W. Wright Harrison

Dr Isabella Harrison

Rose & Bob Hasselle

Christmas Poinsettia Flower Memorials

Charles Herbert III Doris Herring Lelia Holtzman Holloway Phyllis Hamilton Holloway Charles Thomas Holloway, Jr. Charles Thomas Holloway, Sr. Alice Tennant Howle Harold & Jane Jones Wilhelmina & Milton Jordan, Sr. Maria Kovacs Carter LaPrade Kimball & Bruce Lauritzen Helen Derry Martien James Carey Martien Matt Mattox Dr. & Mrs. Hunter H. McGuire Dr Hunter H. McGuire, Jr. Merrily Brooks McNamara Selina Heyward McNamara Rieman McNamara Sr. William Melcher Elizabeth Fitz-Hugh Morgan Betty & Fred Morton Carol Mraz Mason T. New Thomas Osdene Jack Peacock Yvonne T. Penckney Kate Bishop Pevsner Tommie Pierson Allan J. Pierson Donald M. Pierson Ruth M. Pierson Mary L. Pierson

Mr. & Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr.

Angus Powell Beth Powell

Christmas Poinsettia Flower Memorials

Anne Bryan, Grace & Al Reeves James Andrew ReMine Wyman Rolph Margaret & Lee Sanders Alan Gregory Saunders Emily B. Scioscia Pamela Pierson Sears Hubert I. Sears Emma Shugart Mr. & Mrs. Howard B. Slough Nancy Conway Smith William K. Smith Mr. & Mrs. George Spaulding Marqaret Thoms Sykes Anne & Warren Taylor William Tessin Alice Hemple Tessin Albert Julien Todd Phyliss Aiken Todd Eric Caldwell Todd Imre Toth Geoffrey Garrett Trego Raymond Uncapher Richa Vahle Charles & Ruth Valentine Billy Vickery William Milton Webb Addie Holland Webb Harold J. Williams, Jr. Andy Wise James Quinton Yance Mary Whiddon Yance

Parish Prayer List of Grace & Holy Trinity Church

December 25, 2023

We pray for Caitlin Bomar and family, Annie Campbell, Donna Campbell, Wendy Funk, Robert Gary, Jaxon Griffin, Cassie Harris, Cathy Ireland, Sandra Rose, Ray Slabaugh, Andy Stone & Robin Telfian.

For those who desire to be parents and for those expecting a child.

For all the blessings of this life.

For those who have died.

For the victims and all those affected by gun violence.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Altar & Flower Guilds & Choirs.

For our outreach ministries and partners, Red Door Ministry serving those who are food insecure; Circles RVA and those working towards financial stability; the people of Belize; the staff and families of St. Andrew's School.

For racial reconciliation and healing, and peace in the world.

For the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Richmond and surrounding counties, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

For those serving in the military or diplomatic service.

Names may only be added to the Prayer List with the explicit consent of the recipient. All names in italics were added to the prayer list this past week.

In order to keep the Prayer List current and to facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the Prayer List for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the office at (804) 359-5628 or email Lauren Frazier at **lfrazier@ghtc.org**.

Church Staff

The Rev. Gregory Bezilla, Priest Locum Tenens
The Rev. Paul Evans, Associate Rector
The Rev. Stephen McGehee, Priest Associate for Pastoral Care
Stanley M. Baker, Assistant Choirmaster & Organist
Roland Boone, Sexton
Judy F. Bowman, Financial Secretary & Administrative Assistant
Tyler Brady, Communications Associate
Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, Choirmaster & Organist
Lauren Frazier, Parish Administrator
Kate Given, Director of Formation
Barbara Hobson-Simpson, Receptionist
Kyle Reed, Communications Associate
Abigail Stinnett, Children's Choir Director

Vestry

David Lewis (Senior Warden), Meredith McGuire (Junior Warden), Mary Ann Blankenship (Register), Chuck Bleick, Jane Carlson, Judy Carlson, Maurice Cole, Brad Davenport, Mike Hale, Terry Hathaway, Clay Hilbert, Dan McNamara, Mason New, and Fielding Williams

Sunday Services

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Spoken | Chapel)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist* (Choral | *Church*)

*Livestream Available

Grace & Holy Trinity Church

an Episcopal parish on Monroe Park

