

Grace & Holy Trinity Church

an Episcopal parish on Monroe Park



Third Sunday in Advent

Year A

Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

December 14, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

Welcome

Welcome to Grace & Holy Trinity. We hope you will find a community 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. **If you are visiting,** please fill out the **Connect Card** from the Connect Table and place it in the offering plate during the service. A wonderful **nursery** staff is available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. should you wish to drop off your young children (up to age 3) during worship. **Changing tables** are located in the family restroom in the choir room. A greeter can direct you. Information about **complimentary Sunday parking** can be found on the back of this bulletin.

The Word of God

The Prelude marks the beginning of our worship and is intended as a time of reflection.

Prelude

“Sleepers Wake! A Voice Is Calling” | Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, *Organist*

Processional Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *The Hymnal 1982* #56 (vv. 1–4)

Please stand as you are able and sing.

Advent III

Reader O come, O come Emmanuel

All And ransom captive Israel.

Reader May we, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

Advent Wreath

Celebrant By day and by night, and through the circle of the seasons, you keep watch over us, God Most High. We praise you for this Advent wreath. It is the evergreen crown of your royal people. Soon it will grow bright and scatter the darkness. Around this shining wreath we shall keep watch for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to comfort our fears and make new this waiting world: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer 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

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

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.**

Children’s Chapel Dismissal

Celebrant Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

– *Matthew 19:14*

The children are invited to gather for Children’s Chapel at the back of the church and will return at the Peace.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Book of Common Prayer p. 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

You may be seated for the readings.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

Lay Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lay Reader The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9

Robert Knox Kennedy

Please stand as you are able and sing.

Lauda, anima mea



- All**
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
 - 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
 - 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
 - 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
 - 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
 - 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Lay Reader A reading from the book of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lay Reader The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” *The Hymnal 1982* #66

Please stand as you are able and sing.

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Assistant Priest*

Silence for reflection.

The Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

Celebrant Let us stand, and affirm our common faith in these words of the Nicene Creed.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the
 Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Form IV | *Book of Common Prayer* p. 388

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Lay Reader 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. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Lay Reader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Lay Reader 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. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

The Parish Prayer List

Concluding Collect #5

Book of Common Prayer p. 395

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Silence for reflection.

All 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.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

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

– Ephesians 5:2



To donate or pay your pledge, scan the QR code or visit ghtc.org/give.

Offertory Anthem

“Magnificat in B-flat Major” | Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

Parish Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His Name.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations,
He hath shewed strength with His arm,
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
And hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He hath sent empty away.
He remembering His mercy hath holpen His servant Israel,

As He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

Doxology

The Hymnal 1982 #380 (v. 3)

Please stand as you are able.

**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

Book of Common Prayer 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 him 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. *(A Proper Preface is said here.)*

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

The Hymnal 1982 S 129

**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.**

Celebrant 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,

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

Celebrant 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 [N. 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 Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, in the language of your heart.

The Lord's Prayer

Book of Common Prayer 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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

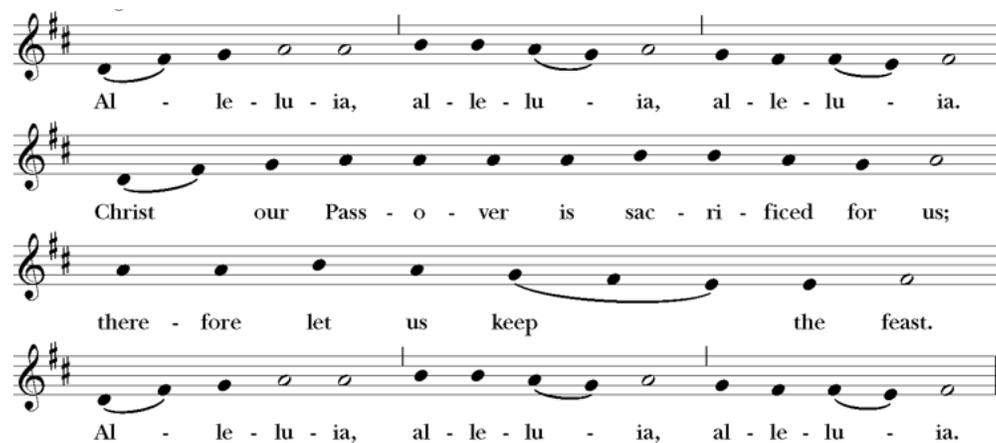
The Breaking of the Bread

Book of Common Prayer p. 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

“Christ our Passover” *The Hymnal* 1982 S 154



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Communion Instructions

Communion from the Common Cup or by intinction (dipping) is available from the altar stations. If you choose to intinct, after you receive the wafer, simply pinch the wafer between your thumb and index finger and hold it up near your face. This will signal for the intinction cup to be brought to you. You will dip the wafer yourself and then receive. Communion by Common Cup is also available at the station at the back of the Church by the chapel double doors. Alternatively, communicants who receive the Bread may refrain from drinking from the Chalice; those who refrain from drinking from the Chalice are encouraged to cross their arms and to say “Amen” when the Chalice is offered. The full grace of the sacrament is communicated through the Bread.

If you prefer to receive the sacrament while seated in the congregation, **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 and indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

Communion Hymn 1

“Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us” *The Hymnal 1982* #61

Communion Hymn 2

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” *The Hymnal 1982* #59

Post-Communion Prayer

Book of Common Prayer p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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

Celebrant The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” | *The Hymnal 1982* #56 (vv. 5–8)

Please stand as you are able and sing.

The Dismissal

Henri-Frédéric Amiel & *Book of Common Prayer* p. 339

Deacon Friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us so be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol” | Gerald Near

Luke Brennan, *Organist*

Flowers at the Altar

This Sunday's Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Benjamin Franklin Martin and Harvey Seward Martin. *If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by giving altar flowers, scan the QR Code, call the office, or visit ghtc.org/flowers for information.*



Today's Worship Leaders

The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Preacher*

The Rev. Brent A. Melton, *Celebrant*

The Rev. Steve Pace, *Deacon*

Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, *Choirmaster & Organist*

Luke Brennan, *Assistant Choirmaster & Organist*

Mary Lecky, William Lee & Gil Martin, *Acolytes*

Vicky Bleick, Elizabeth Baker, Aanu Adewesi & Olivia Andres, *Altar Guild*

Kristin Green & Jim Kelly, *Lay Readers*

The Season of Advent (Blue)

Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” meaning “coming.” The season is a time of expectation and preparation for the coming of the Lord’s Nativity at Christmas and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.” Advent is the first season of the church year, beginning the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The theme of readings and teachings during Advent is to prepare us for the Second Coming while commemorating the First Coming of Christ at Christmas. We use blue vestments during Advent to symbolize hope, expectation, and anticipation for the coming of Christ. Blue also represents the darkness before the birth. The blue color is seen in our church hangings and in the clergy’s vestments. We also use **Advent wreaths** to symbolize this four week passage to Christmas Day. The wreath is a circle made of evergreen with four candles: three blue and one pink candle for Mary. Our tradition also uses a white fifth candle for Christ placed in the center and lit on Christmas. We invite you to wait in Advent.

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Upcoming Events

- Sunday 12/14** **11:45 a.m.** Acolyte Meeting (*Youth Room*)
- Sunday 12/14** **3:00 p.m.** Caroling in Monroe Park & Holiday Market
(**Music Begins at 4:15 p.m.** | *8 N. Laurel Street*)
- Sunday 12/21** **10:00 a.m.** **Children’s Pageant Rehearsal*** (*Church*)
*No 10:30 a.m. worship, 8:00 a.m. worship is regularly scheduled.
- Sunday 12/21** **4:00 p.m.** **Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols**
(Livestream Available | *Church*)
- Sunday 12/21** **5:00 p.m.** **Lessons & Carols Reception**
(Following 4:00 p.m. Worship | *Parish Hall*)
- Monday 12/22** **4:30 p.m.** Holy Strollers Holiday Lights Walk (*Beginning at Whole Foods Grocery, 2024 W. Broad Street*)
- Wednesday 12/24** **4:00 p.m.** **Children’s Pageant with Holy Eucharist, Rite Two*** (Livestream Available | *Church*) *No Bible Study at 9:45 a.m. or Holy Eucharist with Healing at 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday 12/24** **11:00 p.m.** **Christmas Eve** (Livestream Available | *Church*)
- Thursday 12/25** **10:00 a.m.** **Christmas Day*** (*Chapel*) *No Morning Prayer at 8:45 a.m.
- Thursday 12/25** **12:00 p.m.** Parish Office & Church Closed through Thursday, January 1, 2026 in Observance of Christmas & New Year’s*
- *No Morning Prayer on Tuesday, December 30th or on Thursday, January 1st. No Bible Study or Holy Eucharist with Healing on Wednesday, December 31st. **Parish Breakfast & Adult Formation will pause on December 28th and January 4th,** and return Sunday, January 11th.

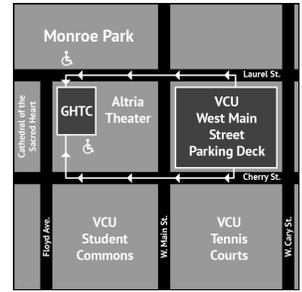
Complimentary Sunday Parking Instructions at VCU W. Main Street Parking Deck



Validation Number: WM-1593

Expiration date: 06/30/2026

QR code only valid on Sundays.



1. Enter the parking deck from N. Laurel Street or N. Cherry Street.
2. At the parking gate arm, press the button to receive a ticket.
3. Park in any available space in the deck.
4. After visiting Grace & Holy Trinity, exit the parking deck in your vehicle and scan your parking ticket into the machine at the parking gate arm.
5. When the machine asks for payment, hold the QR code to the scanner.
6. The machine will scan the code, accept it as payment, and the parking gate arm will raise in order for you to exit.

***If you need assistance, press the “i” button at the gate and someone will assist remotely.**

GHTC Staff: Name, Title

Ministry Focus

Phone Ext.

The Rev. Brent A. Melton, <i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	Admin. Liturgy Formation Pastoral Care	Ext. 17
The Rev. Marissa Sotos, <i>Assistant Priest</i>	Outreach Communications Liturgy	Ext. 16
The Rev. Steve Pace, <i>Deacon</i>	Outreach Pastoral Care	Ext. 12
The Rev. Russ Kerr, <i>Campus Minister</i>	Pace Center Student Engagement Coordinator	
The Rev. Jenny Montgomery, <i>Priest Associate</i>	Worship Parish Life	
Luke Brennan, <i>Assistant Choirmaster & Organist</i>	Youth Instrumental Ensemble Choir	Ext. 21
Tyler Brady, <i>Communications Associate</i>	Communications Media Printing	Ext. 25
Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, <i>Choirmaster & Organist</i>	Music Choir Liturgy	Ext. 18
Lauren Frazier, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	Property Admin. Pastoral & Clergy Support	Ext. 23
Barbara Hobson-Simpson, <i>Receptionist</i>	Doors Phones Welcome	Ext. 10
Madeleine Preston, <i>Director of Formation</i>	Children & Youth Adult Formation	Ext. 15
Mark Roman, <i>Sexton</i>	Property	
Kathy Schultheis, <i>Financial Administrator</i>	Admin. Expenses Pledges	Ext. 14
Abigail Stinnett, <i>Children’s Choir Director</i>	Children’s Choir	

We ask that you please take this bulletin with you and recycle it when you are finished.

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ghtc.org