



January 23, 2022

Third Sunday after Epiphany

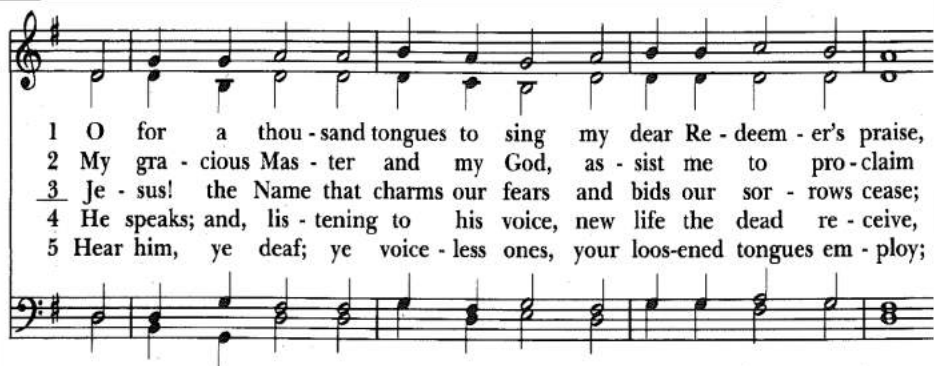
Welcome to the Church of the Holy Comforter

Welcome! We're glad you're here. We ask that all persons above the age of 2 wear masks during the church service.

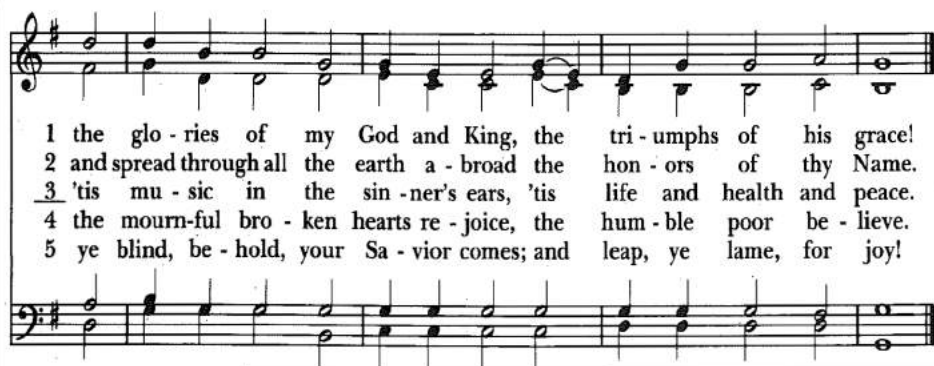
At the Procession

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Standing



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos-ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn-ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Service of the Word

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

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated for the lessons.

The First Lesson

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Introduction to the Lesson

Newly returned from their exile, God's people are read God's law by Ezra the priest. The people respond with shouts of acclamation, and a holy day is proclaimed.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Nehemiah:

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 19

*Psalm will be said responsively by whole verse,
alternating each verse with the Lector who reads first.*

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Introduction to the Lesson

Each member of Christ's body, the Church, is equally necessary to the functioning of the whole, and each has a particular function. Baptized into the one body, we are to care for one another.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."


On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gift.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Stand for the Gospel Hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Hymn

Will you come and follow me



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but

call your name? Will you go where
 call your name? Will you care for
 call your name? Will you set the
 call your name? Will you quell the
 call my name. Let me turn and

you don't know And nev - er be the same?
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
 pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, Will you
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your

let my name be known, Will you let my
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and

life be grown In you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 what I mean In you and you in me?
 touch and sound In you and you in me?
 live and grow In you and you in me.

Introduction to the Lesson

Jesus takes part in worship in Nazareth. He reads from Isaiah about the coming of God's Anointed One, then proclaims that the prophecy is fulfilled, offering hope to those waiting for the messiah.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Joe Bowden

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Frank our Bishop; and all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. (Intercessions for healing) Hear us Lord
For your mercy is great.

We thank you Lord for all the blessings of this life. For those with special celebrations (Intercessions for thanksgiving). We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (Intercessions for the departed) Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

And now we pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Confession and Absolution

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.

People: *And also with you.*

Offertory Anthem

Offertory Hymn

How great thou art



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der con - sid - er
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der and hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me



all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the *roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy power through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
gran - deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze.
bear - ing, he bled and died to take a - way my sin.
ra - tion, and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art?"



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: how great thou



art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

An Acclamation of Thanksgiving for God's Gifts

Celebrant: All things come from you O Lord

People: *And of Your own have we given You.*

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B *Also found on page 367 in The Book of Common Prayer*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus:



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,

Celebrant and People: *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 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.*

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.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*
Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion: At this time we are only offering altar bread, not wine.

Gluten Free Communion Bread: If you have a dietary restrictions and need gluten free communion bread, just ask the server for gluten free bread when you come to receive.

Communion Hymn

They'll know we are Christians



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from

one in the Lord, We are one in the
walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
work side by side, We will work with each
whom all things come, And all praise to Christ

Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all

pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's
praise to the Spir - it, who makes us

stored:
land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
pride:
one:



Text: Peter Scholtes, b.1938
 Tune: ST. BRENDAN'S, 7 6 7 6 8 6 with refrain; Peter Scholtes, b.1938
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The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.*

The Blessing and the Dismissal

Celebrant: Always remember how short life is and how little time we have to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*

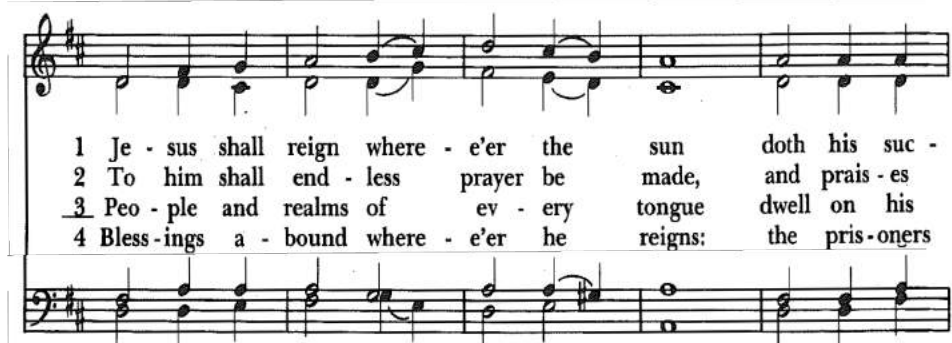
(The dismissal is said after the closing hymn. Children are invited to join the clergy at the front of the church to help with the dismissal.)

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing
 in the power of the Spirit.

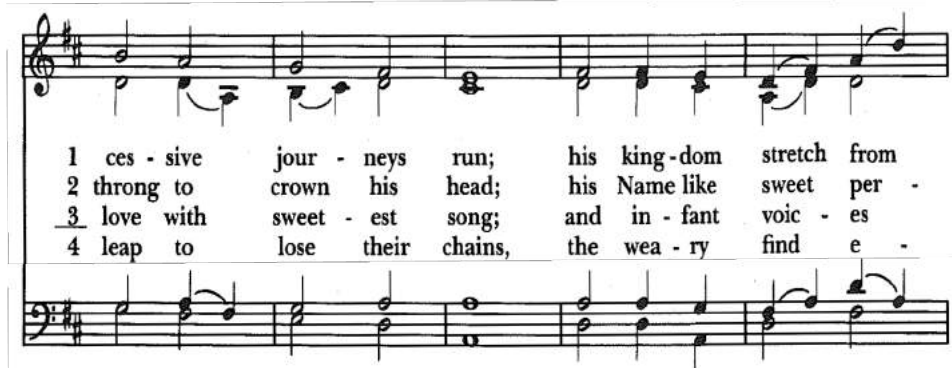
People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Recessional

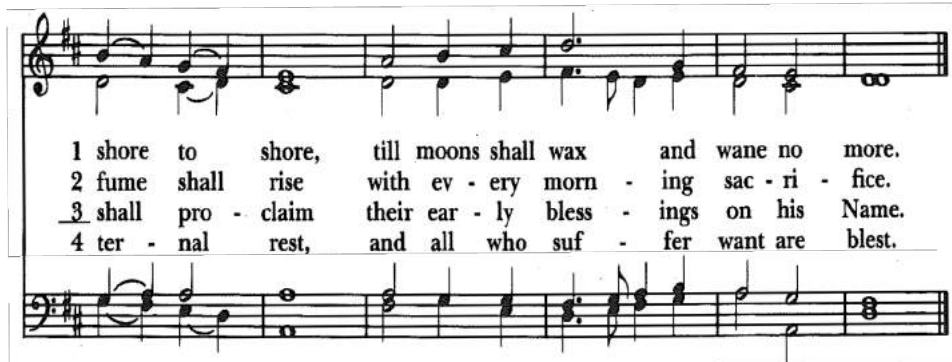
Jesus shall reign



1 Je - sus shall reign where - e'er the sun doth his suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound where - e'er he reigns; the pris - oners



1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 2 throng to crown his head; his Name like sweet per -
 3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -



1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.
 4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.

The Mission of Holy Comforter

Love God, Love Others

Serve God, Serve Others

Welcome to Holy Comforter—We're Glad You're Here!

To our guests—*we are so glad that you are here!* Our first joy is to welcome our guests and newcomers. And our prayer is that we may become a spiritual home for you. An usher can assist you with any questions. Like to be on our mailing list? Sign our guest register.

Do you want to be part of Holy Comforter? Call the parish office (706-210-1133) and we'll be glad to help you. *Also, please make sure that we have your e-mail address to receive our weekly E-News.*

Welcome our Guest Preacher

This morning we welcome The Rev. Dr. Joe Bowden as our guest preacher and celebrant. Next Sunday, The Rev. Sonia Sullivan Clifton will be with us.

Next Sunday - Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday, January 30th after worship

Join us for our Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 30th after worship. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome, all are needed.

Meeting Agenda:

Elections for the Vestry
Elect delegates to Diocesan Convention
Approve the 2022 Budget



To insure we have a lunch for all attendees, please RSVP in our Enews or by using the QR code *today*.

Stewardship Update

We are gladly still accepting pledges for 2022. A fully funded budget for 2022 would be over \$400,000.00. So far we have received pledges from 64 households for a total of \$305,120.00. We invite everyone who has not pledged to be in prayer as to how you might support the mission and ministry of Holy Comforter this year.

Pastoral Care

For all pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please contact Pam Vanscoy at pvanscoy@comcast.net.

Cindy's Travel Fund - Final Total

We had over 36 contributions to the Cindy Travel Fund for a total of \$7,000. A travelling she will go!

The Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 9 at 10am to discuss the book *Upstream* by Mary Oliver. In a collection of essays by the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize poet, Oliver “encourages us all to keep moving, to lose ourselves in the awe of the unknown, and to give power and time to the creative and whimsical urges that live within us.”

Children's Church

Children's Church meets downstairs at 10:30am. Prior to the start of church service parents will escort their children, grades Pre-K through 5th, downstairs where their hearts and minds will be filled with God's love! Children will be brought upstairs in time for communion. Here is a look at what stories we'll be diving into:

Jan 23 - Zacchaeus Makes Amends, Luke 19:1-10

Jan 30 - Jesus Turns the Tables, Mark 11:15-18

Upcoming Youth Events

Sunday, January 30th: Youth Spaghetti Night from 5pm - 7:30pm at the church. Join us for a spaghetti dinner followed by basketball in the church parking lot (weather permitting).

Sunday, February 6th: Donuts & Devotionals at 10am. Join us in the Youth Room downstairs for a sweet treat and a short devotional.

December Financial Report

Actual Revenue as of December 31, 2021	\$353,831.19
Actual Expenses as of December 31, 2021	<u>\$352,075.78</u>
Surplus/Deficit as of December 31, 2021	\$1,755.41

Prayers of the People

Persons remain on the list for two weeks; those with chronic needs continue to be prayed for by our Prayer Chain. You may add prayer requests at the lectern in the foyer.

For those in need of healing: Bill Greeba, Dee Barber, Marc Mexia, and Gene Hair

For those celebrating birthdays: Valerie Bulluck, Vivian Vaiden, and Camilla Baker

Thanksgiving for our partnership with Martinez Elementary School, The Claiborne, 143 Ministries, and Kairos Prison Ministry.

For those who are homebound: Donna Garvey and Loren Waldo

For the safety of all those who serve abroad.

Missions and Prayer

Prayer Shawl Ministries: Make them at home or come to church every Tuesday at 10:30am to make shawls which are given to anyone with a prayer need.

Food Bank: Please place non-perishable items in the red wagon by the front door. The food collected goes to Columbia County Cares. Our goal each month is to give away 500 pounds of food!

Ministering to the needy of Columbia County. We need toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, tooth paste, soap, detergent, feminine needs, dish wash, and shampoo. Place those items in the kitchen in the marked container. And thanks!

Ways to Give

You can make a gift to Holy Comforter in a variety of ways:

- Use the Square Reader in the foyer for debit/credit cards
- Go to our website, click giving and use Pay Pal
- Make checks out to Holy Comforter and/or give cash and put it in the offertory plate on Sunday.
- Remember Holy Comforter in your will.
- All gifts are tax deductible

Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant
Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Reader
Altar Guild
Ushers
Altar Bread
Vestry Person of the Day

The Rev. Dr. Joe Bowden
Tab Carter
Emily Milburn
Sharon Attaway and Carole Nelson
Griff and Mary Kelly
Mary Kelly
Dave Blake

Staff

Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator
Lara Fort, Financial Secretary
Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

Vestry

Fred Hoogland, Dave Blake, Jr. Warden (Class of 2022)
Mallory Halterman, Bill Liebel (Class of 2023)
Tab Carter, Pam Vanscoy (Class of 2024)

Mailing Address: 473 Fury's Ferry Rd., Martinez, GA 30907
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Web: holycomforterchurch.org

General Email: mailbox@holycomforterchurch.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 2pm

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and join the conversation!**



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by scanning our QR code**