Church of the Holy Comforter
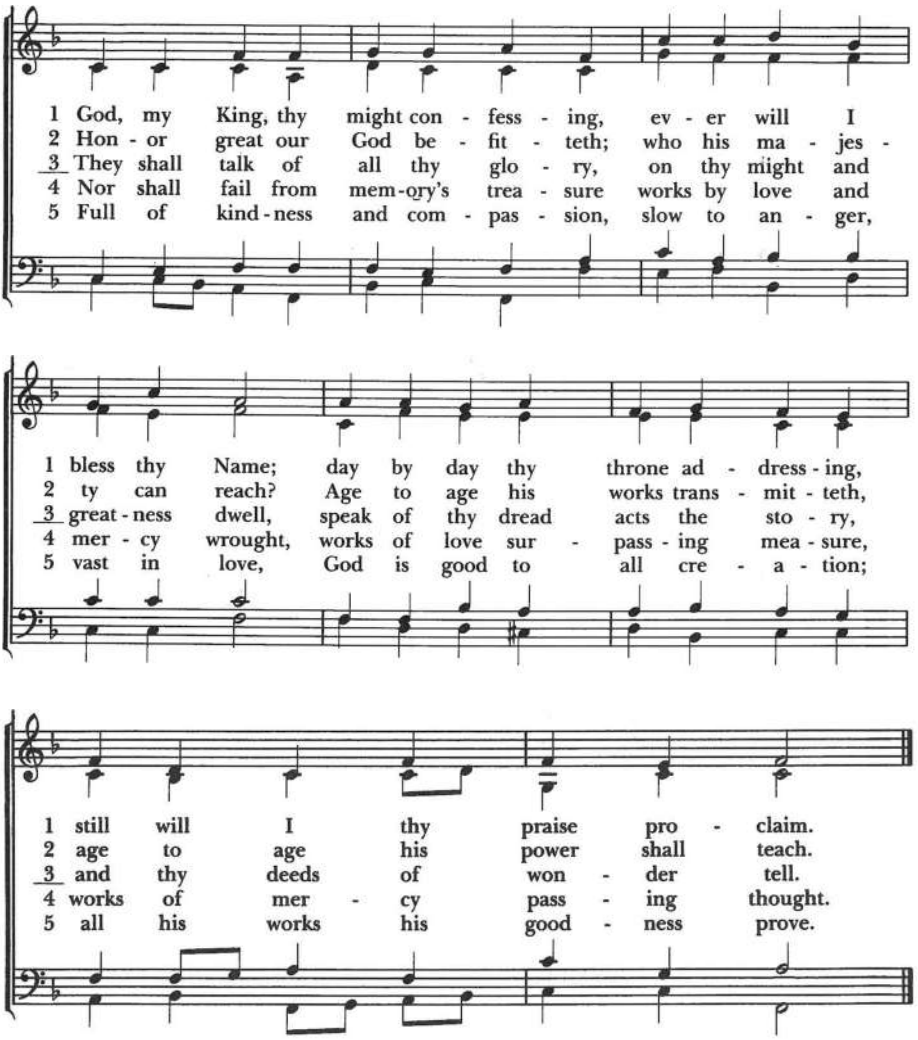
November 8, 2026

Proper 27

Welcome to The Church of the Holy Comforter

Welcome! We're glad you're here. Parents: The nurseries for infants and toddlers are located on the lower level.

At the Procession *God, My King, Thy Might Confessing*
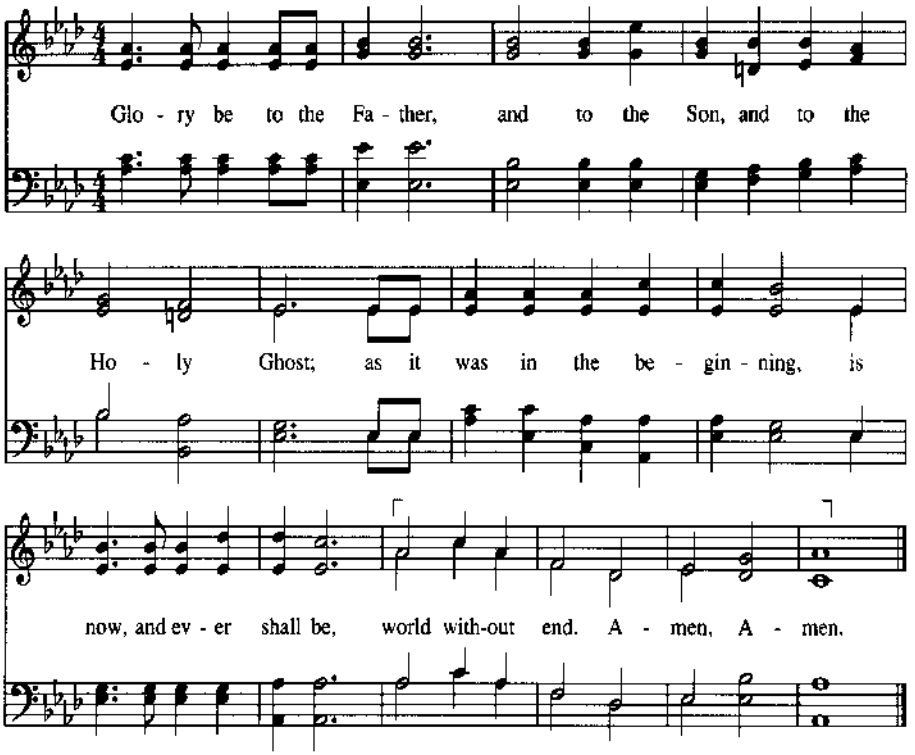


THE WORD OF GOD

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.*

Glory be to the Father



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: *And also with you.*
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be

made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

Introduction to the Lesson

Joshua demands that the people choose whether they will obey and faithfully serve God, who has led them to freedom.

A reading from the Book of Joshua:

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors–Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor–lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will

serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-7

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

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn;*
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God,*
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Second Lesson **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Introduction to the Lesson

Paul uses poetic language to assure anxious Christians that the same God who raised Jesus from the dead will draw all the faithful together to be with him.

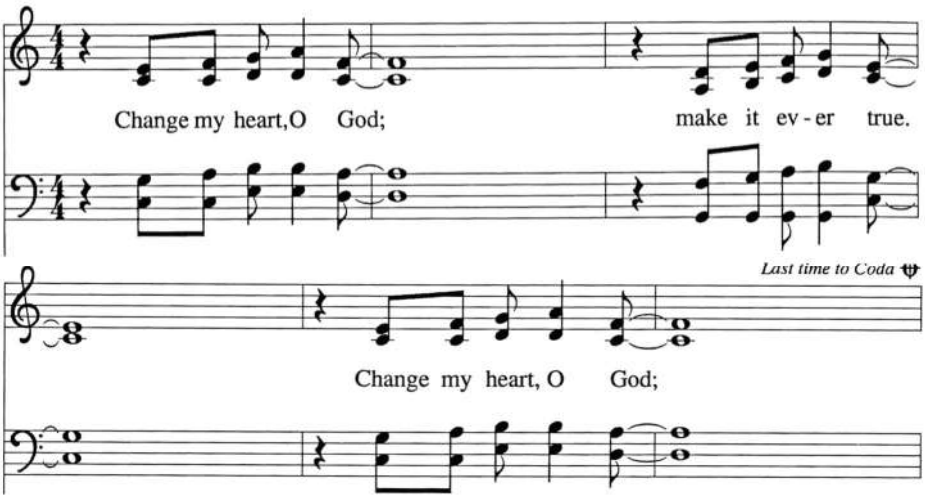
A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:
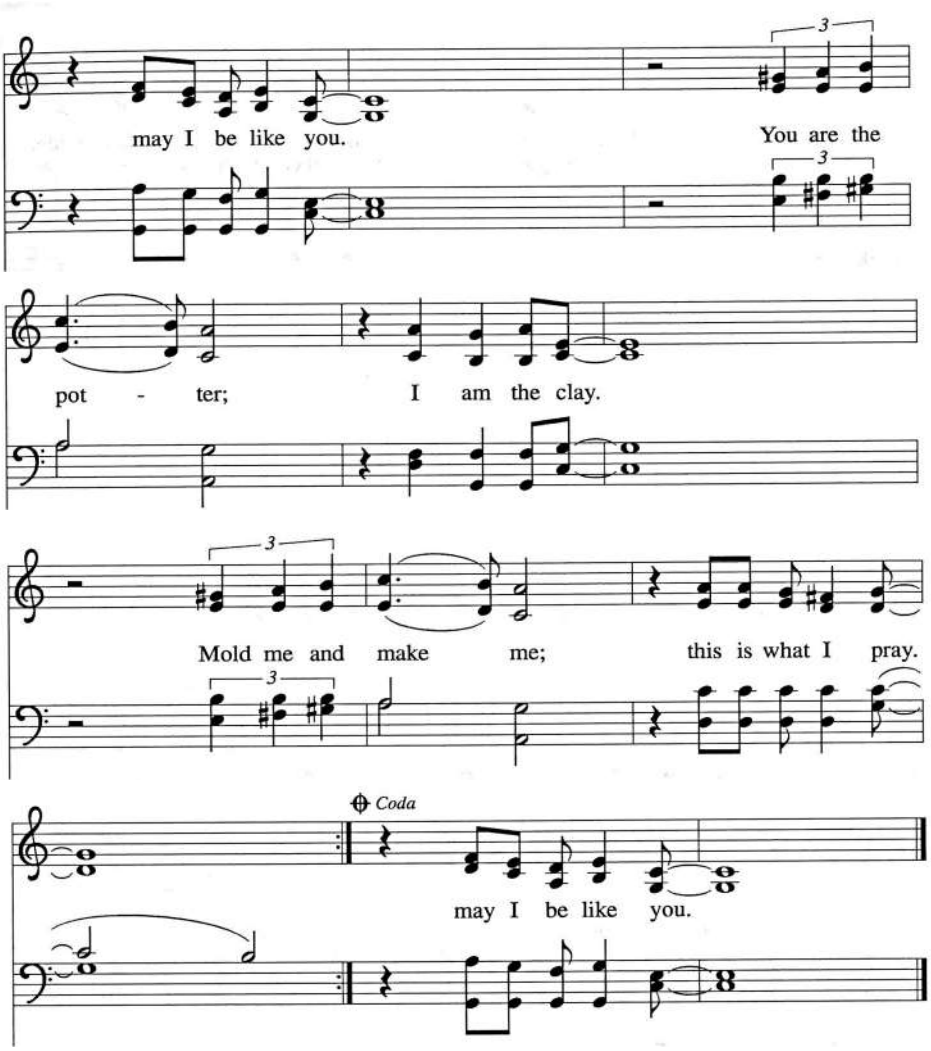
We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand for the Gospel Hymn and the reading of the Gospel. Sing before the Gospel and after the Gospel.

Gospel Hymn *Change my heart, O God*





The Holy Gospel **Matthew 25: 1-13**

Introduction

Jesus uses a parable to urge his followers to prepare their hearts because the coming of the kingdom will be sudden.

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took

no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him in to the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

The Sermon The Rev. Ashton Williston

Plenty Good Room: Stewardship Ministry Moment

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 worshipped 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

Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need (Intercessions for healing). Surround them with your healing and your peace. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We thank you Lord for all the blessings of this life. For those with special celebrations (Intercessions for thanksgiving). Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace (Intercessions for the departed). Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

The Confession and Absolution

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 upon us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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*.
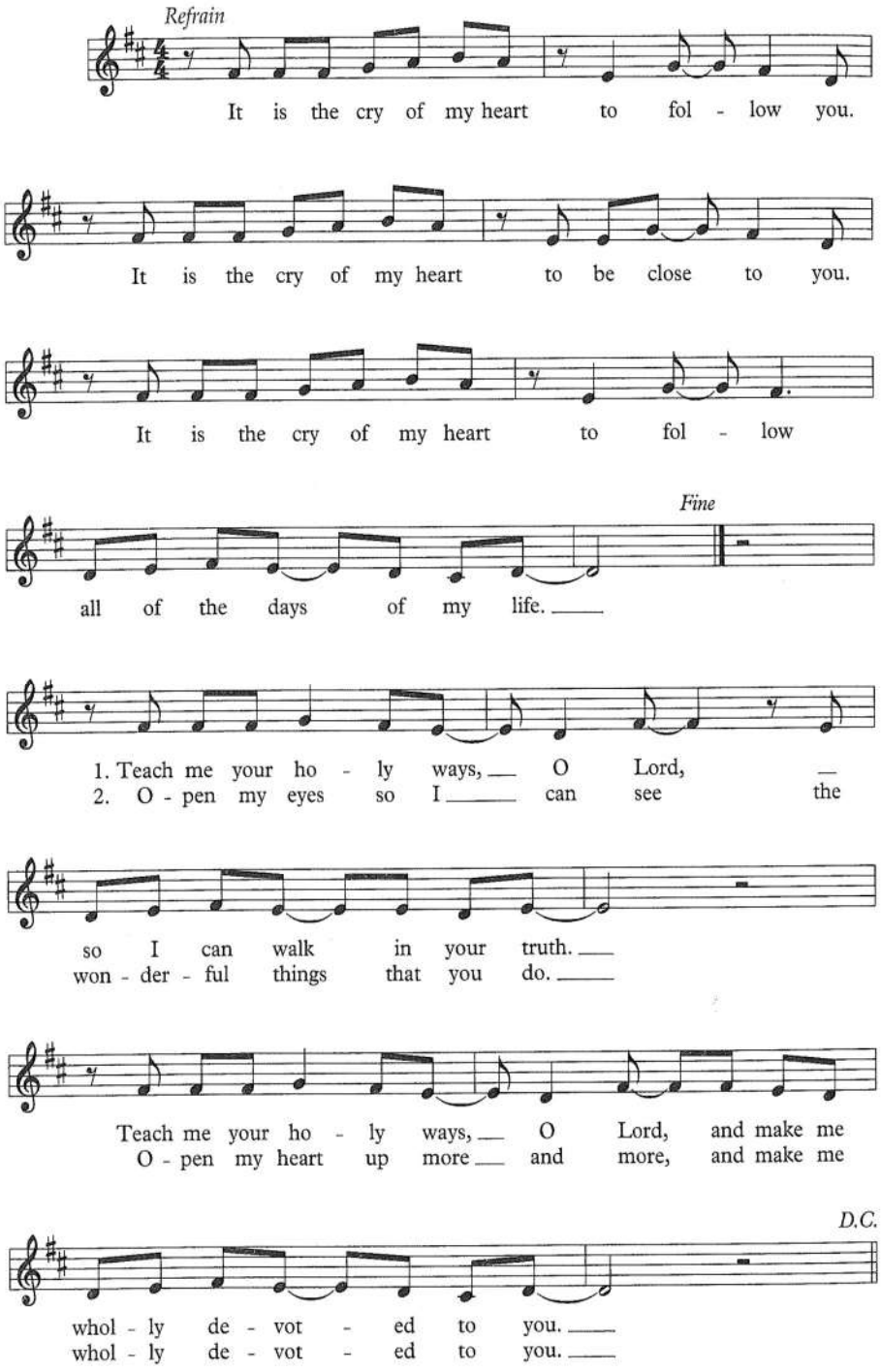


THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

Offertory Anthem

Offertory Hymn *It is the Cry of my Heart*



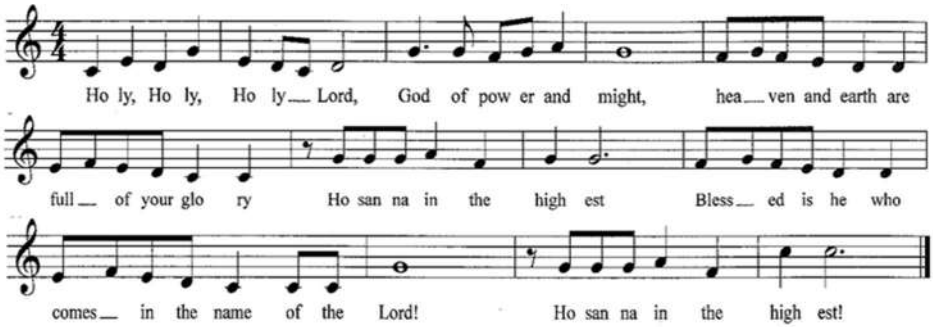
An Acclamation of Thanksgiving for God's Gifts

Celebrant: All things come from you O Lord
People: *And of your own have we given you.*

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A

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. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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:



Celebrant: 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 all 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.

Celebrant: 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 forever. *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.
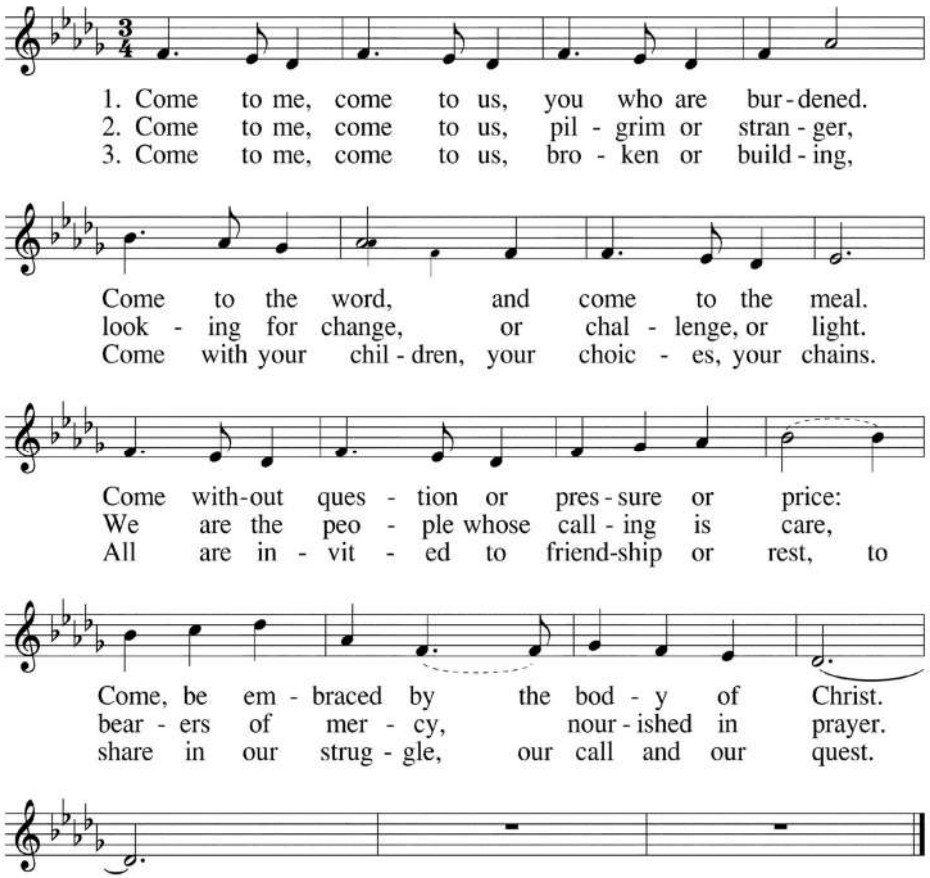
Celebrant: This is the table not of the Church but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little. You who have been here often and you who have not been here long. You who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come because it is the Lord who invites you. It is the Lord's will that those who desire Jesus should meet him here at this table.

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.
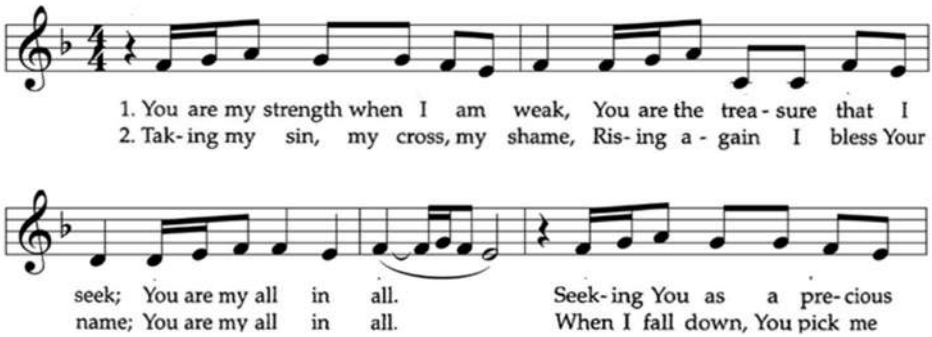
Receiving communion: All are welcome at God's table. If you would like to receive the wine by common cup, go to the right. If you would like to receive by intinction, go to the left.
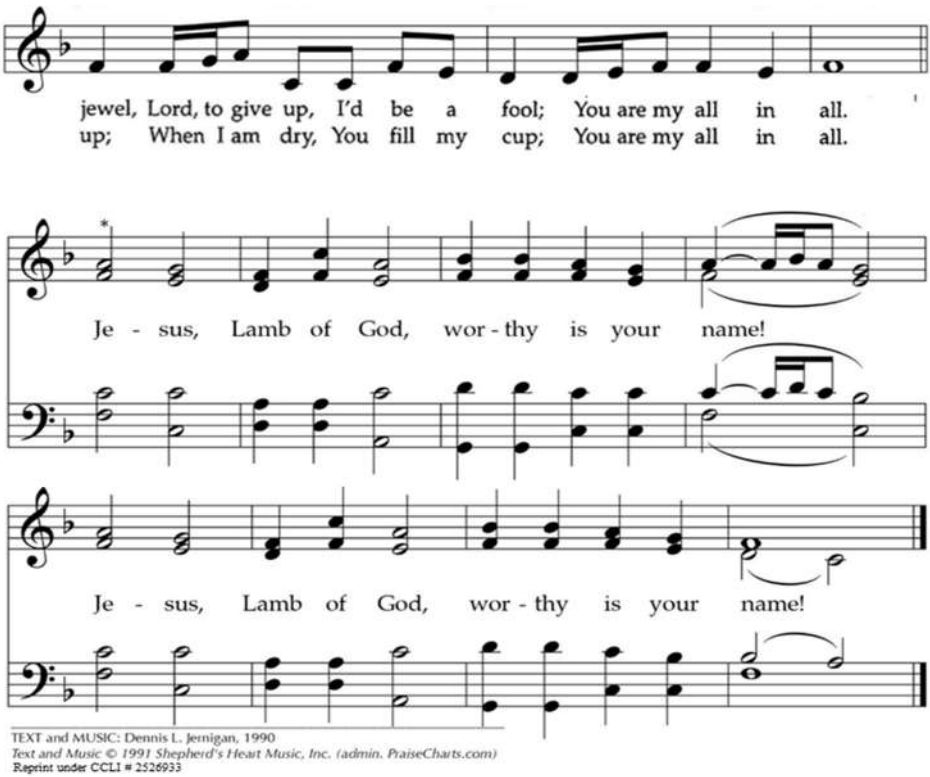
Prayer Team: If you would like a member of the Prayer Team to pray with you for any need in body, mind, or spirit, go to the back of the church after receiving communion and members of the Prayer Team will pray with you.

Communion Music *Come To Us*



Communion Hymn *All in All*





TEXT and MUSIC: Dennis L. Jernigan, 1990
Text and Music © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. (admin. PraiseCharts.com)
Reprint under CCLI # 2526933

The Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand and remain standing through the closing hymn

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 for ever. Amen.*
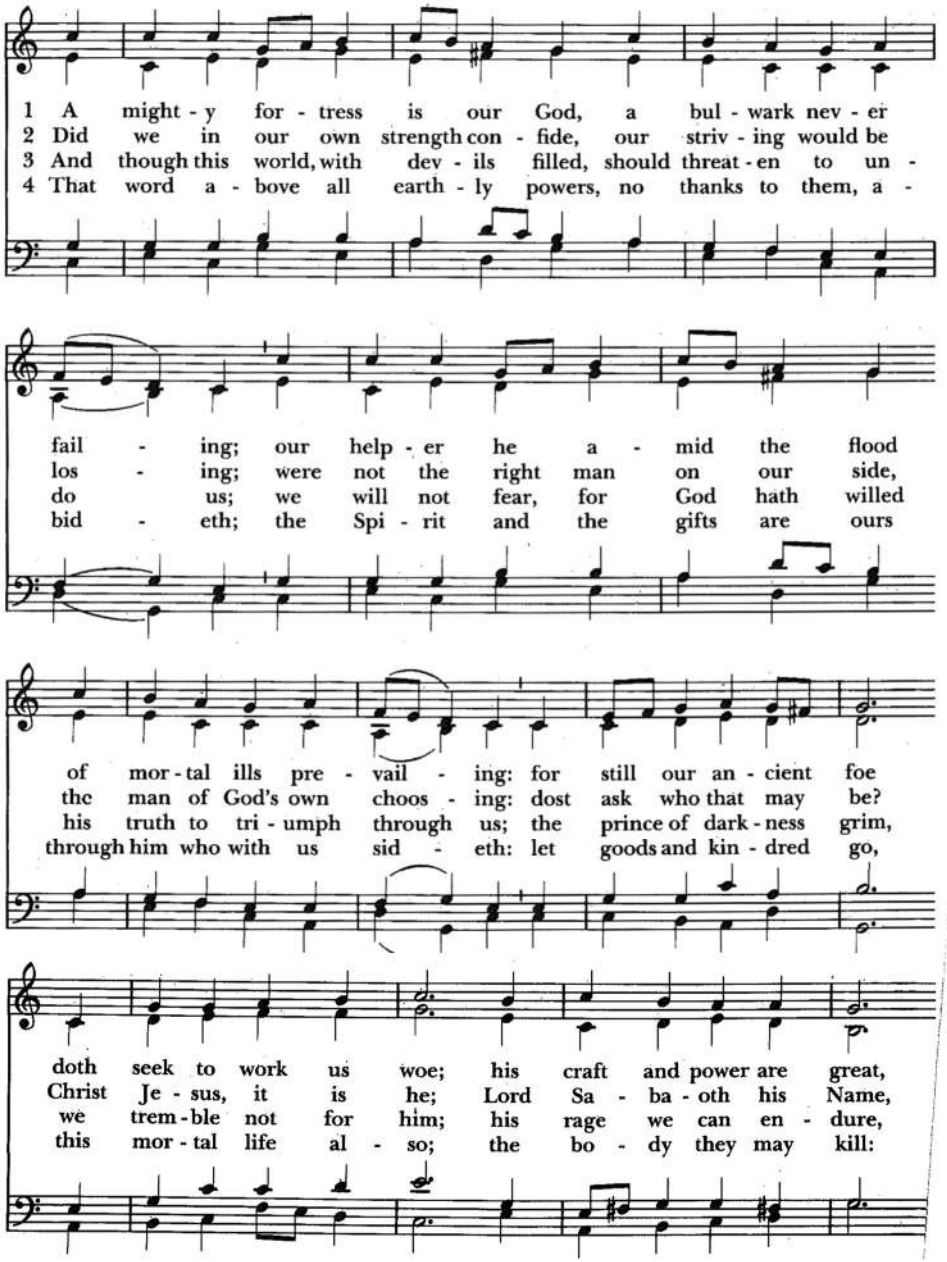
The Blessing and the Dismissal

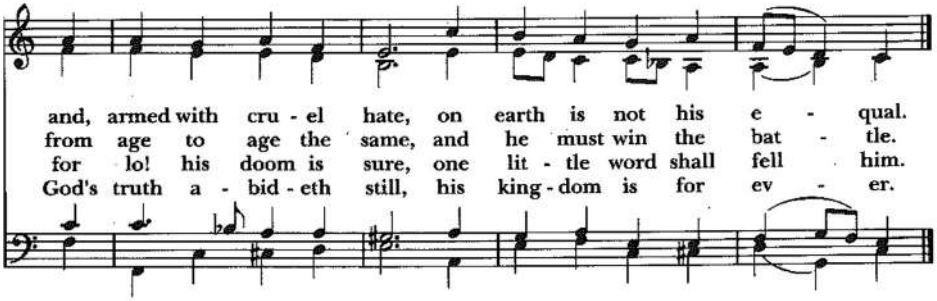
Celebrant: Always remember how short life is and how little time we have to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

(The dismissal is said after the closing hymn)

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 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*





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

Our first joy is to welcome our guests and newcomers. An usher can assist you with any questions. Like to be on our mailing list? Please sign our guest register.

Do you want to be part of Holy Comforter? Call the parish office (706-834-6228) 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.*

Stewardship



Next Sunday, November 15th we will gather for Commitment Sunday. Please share your commitment for the coming year using the pledge card by mail or by scanning the QR code. As you consider your commitment, please know that the commitments we receive help us prepare the 2027 budget in support of the mission and ministries of Holy Comforter. Stewardship continues year-round through our time, talents and treasure.

The Book Club

The Book Club meets Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00am to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. We will watch the movie in the downstairs classroom.

The Rector's Forum

Sunday, November 15th at 9:15am: We continue a discussion of *Grace on the Journey to God* by Father Michael Casey.

Sunday School

Sunday, November 15th at 9:15am: Next Sunday, we'll meet Deborah, one of the Bible's courageous leaders. Through Scripture, discussion, and hands-on activities, children will discover that God can use anyone—young or old—to show courage, wisdom, and faith.

YOUTH-charist

Sunday, November 15th at 9:15am: *Peacemakers & Poor Spirits: Standing Strong* The world says popularity, power, and winning matter most. Jesus says something completely different. Beatitudes: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness and those who are insulted for following Christ. Living according to Jesus' teachings isn't always easy, and sometimes doing the right thing comes at a cost. We'll discuss how we can remain faithful, courageous, and hopeful, trusting that God's Kingdom is worth more than the approval of the world.

Mahjong at Holy Comforter

Join us for Mahjong here at Holy Comforter next Sunday, November 15th from 1:30-4:00pm. This event is free. If you would like to play, register by emailing Tula Henson at tulahenson714@gmail.com.

Mahjong Beginner Class: If you are interested in learning Mahjong please contact Tula Henson at the email above. She will arrange times for teaching with you.

Candlelight Healing Service



Threads of Comfort

The next meeting of the Threads of Comfort ministry is Thursday, November 19th at 10am in the Parish Hall. If anyone needs blanket supplies, contact Gail Jarrell through text at 706-414-3543.

The Men's Group

The Holy Comforter Men's Group meets Friday, November 20th at Cracker Barrel, 544 North Belair Road at 8:00am in the back corner.

Golden Harvest Volunteers

Meal Packing: Father Glenn is looking for 14 volunteers to pack meals at 3310 Commerce Drive in Augusta on Monday, November 23rd from 9:00 - 11:30am.

Meal Serving: Father Glenn is looking for 12 others to join him in serving the lunch meal at The Masters Table from 10:30-12:15pm on Monday, November 30th. We meet at 702 Fenwick Street in Augusta. No open toed shoes please.

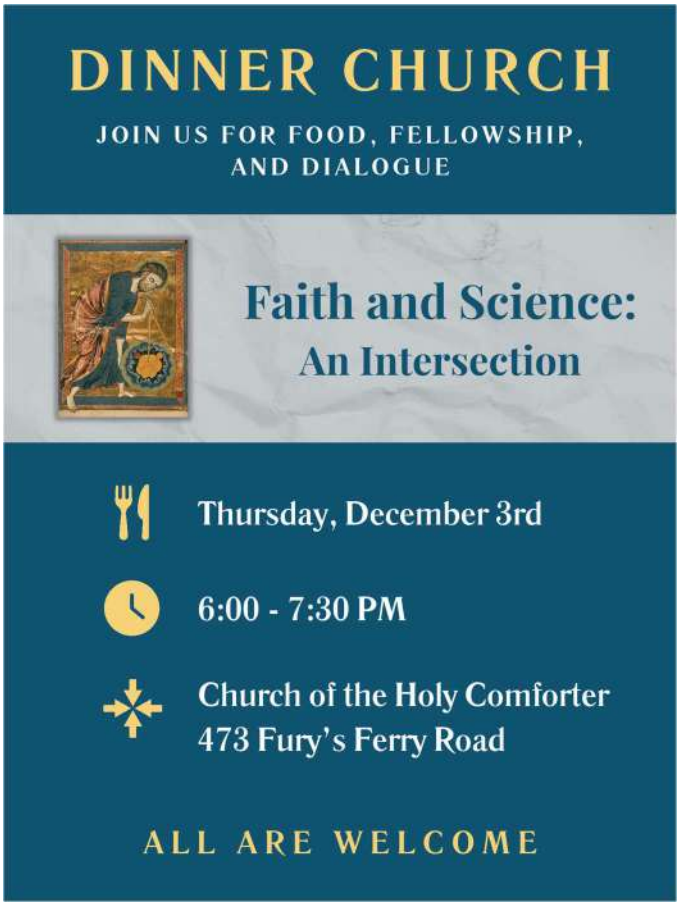
Putting Skin on GOD's Love at The Byllesby Center

To paraphrase Matthew 25:40, what you do for the least of them, you do for me. We are looking for an individual or group of individuals to help coordinate a weekly hot meal breakfast on either a Wednesday or Friday at The Byllesby Center. If YOU would be interested in starting up this ministry, please contact Fred Hoogland at 770-335-7942.

Christmas Cards for Inmates

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas Cards for the inmates at Leath Correctional Institution. We collected over 700! The cards are in the foyer for those who want to help write messages inside. The directions are in each pack of cards. Simply take a pack(s) of cards, sign your name on the roster and indicate how many packs you are taking. Completed cards are due *Nov. 22*. If you have any questions, call or email at: lhbargeron@gmail.com or 706-267-8668.

Coming in December



Brown Bag Bible Study

Wednesday, December 2nd at 12pm: Bring your lunch and join the conversation! We meet in the Parish Hall for the Noonday Prayer Service followed by a discussion of the lessons for the approaching Sunday.

We're on Instagram – Come Follow Along!



Holy Comforter is now on Instagram.

Follow us: @holycomforterga

Help Make Cookies and the Christ Child Merry & Bright!

We're getting ready for Cookies and the Christ Child on December 19th, a special morning of Christmas cheer, cookie decorating, caroling, and storytelling for our church family! To make this festive event a success, we need a little help from our wonderful church community! There are lots of ways to lend a hand, whether you have a little time to spare or want to join in the fun!

Christmas Cookie Bakers: Help us fill our decorating tables by baking cookies ready for little hands to decorate!

Setup & Cleanup Crew: Help us transform our space into a Christmas celebration or lend a hand getting everything tidied up afterward.

Cookie Decorating Helpers: Join the fun during the event by helping children decorate their Christmas creations. No artistic talent required—just a little patience and Christmas spirit!

Christmas Storytellers: Help bring the magic and meaning of Christmas to life by reading our special Christmas book.

Christmas Carol Leaders: Help us make a joyful noise by leading some favorite Christmas carols. Enthusiasm is more important than a perfect singing voice!

Whether you love baking, singing, storytelling, or simply lending a helping hand, there's a place for you at Cookies and the Christchild!

Please contact Laura Knight (ms.hibberd@gmail.com or 704-576-1891) if you'd like to volunteer. Together, we can create a morning filled with sweet treats, joyful memories, and the wonder of Christ's birth!

GIFTS FOR THE CHRIST CHILD 2026

The Holy Comforter Men's Group is again asking for your help in sponsoring "Gifts for the Christ Child".

This Sunday, Nov. 8, the list of families for whom we are providing Christmas gifts will be available in the foyer. Robert Bargeron & Griff Kelly will be there to assist you with any questions.

If you would like to participate in this program to fulfill the wishes of a family, please see the instructions below:

1. Choose a family to sponsor.
2. Enter your name and contact information on the card and turn it in to Robert or Griff. Please print. DO NOT KEEP THIS CARD!
3. After turning in your card, you will be given a second card to keep with all the information that you need to purchase gifts. Complete instructions on what to do and due dates are on the back of this card. Keep it with you for shopping. Do not wrap the gifts. If possible, please request gift receipts to provide to the families in the event that an exchange must be made (i.e.. exchange due to size, etc.)
4. Large black bags in which to place the gifts and a tag with the family's number (same as on the card you have with the information about the gifts) will also be available.
5. Please do not put your name on the tags as they are marked for anonymous distribution. The tags have the family # only to keep the recipient and donor anonymous.
6. If you have any questions or need help bringing the gifts to Holy Comforter by the deadline, please contact Robert or Griff.
   Robert Bargeron – 706-373-1967 or Griff Kelly – 206-573-1523

DEADLINE for having gifts at the church is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6.

Thank you for your love and generosity for the less fortunate!

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: Josh and Amber Parrish, Bob Morris, Beth, Mike Leonard, Paulie Kane, and George

For those celebrating birthdays: Carol Kane, Aislinn Williams, and Steve White

For those celebrating anniversaries: Dan and Heather Doughtie

Thanksgiving for our partnership with The Claiborne, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Boy Scout Troop 10.

For those receiving assisted care: Loren Waldo

For the safety of Joseph Haddow and all those who serve abroad and at home.

For the departed: Carol Kirby, aunt of Heather Doughtie

Missions and Prayer

The Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request, send to Pam Whitaker at pwhitakernp@gmail.com. Your prayer request will be shared with those on the prayer chain and we will pray for you, your loved one, or your concern.

The Prayer Crafters: We crochet, knit and work on looms making hats, scarves, lap blankets and shawls. No experience necessary-we will teach you! Tuesdays from 10am-noon in the Parish Hall.

Food Donations: Please place non-perishable items in the red wagon by the front door. Canned goods that do not require a can opener are best. The food collected goes to The Byllesby Center, providing to those in need in the Harrisburg community.

Contacting Father Glenn

For pastoral emergencies:

Call or text anytime
at 803-319-5296.

For non-pastoral and non-emergencies:

Please keep texts or phone calls limited to the hours of 8:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M. Mon-Fri

Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Ashton Williston
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Jenny Quebedeaux and Pam Vanscoy
Acolytes	Carter Wallace and Parker Maddox
Reader	Linda Bargeron
Altar Guild	Karen Sheppard
Altar Bread	Maurica Bourne
Prayer Team	Glenn Fulghum and Linda Bargeron
Pre-Service Greeter	Mary Kelly
Ushers	The Shepherds
Media Crew	Keith Milburn and Dave Blake
Vestry Person of the Day	Barry Paschal

Staff

The Rev. Glenn A. Palmer, Rector
Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator, Accompanist
Lara Fort, Business Administrator
Gail Jarrell, Music Director
Laura Knight, Sunday School Coordinator

Vestry

Barry Paschal, Sr. Warden, Heather Doughtie, Jr. Warden
Amy Moore, and Maurice Lewis (Class of 2027)
Robbie Jarrell and A.J. Kleinheksel (Class of 2028)
Tim Curry (Class of 2029)

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(706) 834-6228
www.holycomforterchurch.org

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

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