

October 1, 2023

Blessing of the Animals

Proper 21

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.



(This morning's service is taken, in part, from the Supplemental Liturgies of the Episcopal Church)

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Creator, Word, and Spirit,

People: Who brings all things into being and calls them good.

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all animals of the land. People: Let us praise and exalt our Creator together.

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all birds of the air.
People: Let us praise and exalt our Creator together.

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all creatures of the sea. People: Let us praise and exalt our Creator together.

Celebrant: Bless your Creator, all children of God.
People: Let us praise and exalt our Creator together.

The Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

Exodus 17: 1-7

Introduction to the Lesson

The Israelites' bitter complaints continue, so at the Lord's command, Moses strikes a rock and water flows forth for the people.

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with

Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

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 worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, * in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- He split open the sea and let them pass through; * he made the waters stand up like walls.
- He led them with a cloud by day, * and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness * and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff, * and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 2: 1-13

Introduction to the Lesson

Paul praises Jesus for his willingness to be a servant even though he was God's Son. For this reason, Jesus' name is to be honored above all names.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians:

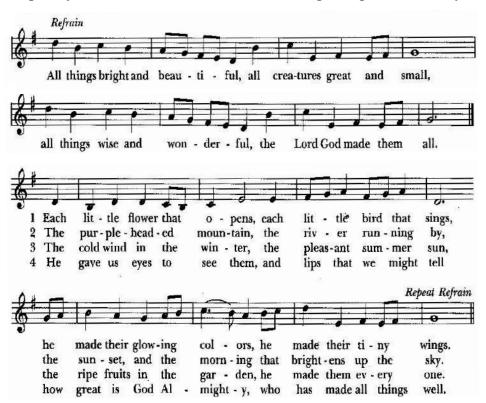
If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Stand for the Gospel Hymn and the reading of the Gospel. Sing verses 1-2 before the Gospel and verses 3-4 after the Gospel.

Gospel Hymn

All things bright and beautiful



The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21: 23-32

Introduction to the Lesson

Jesus warns against paying lip service to God's laws, using a parable to teach that true obedience requires a change of heart, and action.

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of

John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Glenn A. Palmer

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

Let us pray.

Lector: For the artistry of spinning spiders, the industry of ants, and the busyness of bees, for all alert animals of field and forest, for the squirrels that gather, chipmunks that chatter, for mice that burrow, and pigs that root.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: For the splendor of the great deep and sparkling streams, for the water bugs and dolphins, for all fish and all sea life, and for enormous whales.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: For all things that fly, for pelicans and parakeets, barn owls and peacocks, for eagles that soar, and for birds that nest.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: For beasts that lumber, for elephants and hippos, grizzly bears and tortoises, porcupines and three-toed sloths, and for all creatures that remind us not to hurry.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: For the graceful beasts, the great cats, and for gazelles, for giraffes, and for flamingos, foxes, and fawns.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: For the animals that work for human good, for horses, oxen, mules, and beasts of burden, for dogs, who lead those who cannot see or hear, track the lost and rescue the stranded.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: For the animals that share our homes, for those in need of homes today, for faithful dogs and purring cats, for all animals that teach us how to love without judgment, for rabbits, hamsters, birds, assorted reptiles, and freshwater fish.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: For the loving pets we no longer see nor hold, who served us in faithfulness and trust, and now live on in our hearts and minds.

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Lector: We thank you Lord for all the blessings of this life. For those with special celebrations (Intercessions for thanksgiving). Hear us Lord. *People: We give you thanks, O God.*

Lector: We pray for those in need of healing. (Intercessions are offered here) Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear us Lord.

Lector: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (Intercessions for the departed). Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear us Lord.

Celebrant: Give us the grace, O God, to learn from the animal kingdom that you created all things: And bring us to your peaceable kingdom where lion and lamb lie down together. *Amen*.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

Celebrant and People: Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you. We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation: teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives. We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of life. We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites: strengthen us in self-control. We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted: make us urgent now for its protection. Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

Celebrant now offers prayers for Pets and a Blessing.

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

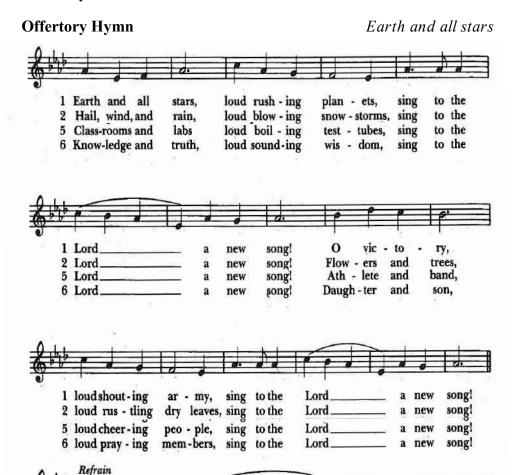
Offertory Anthem

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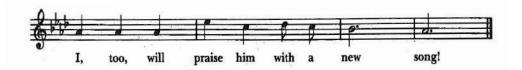
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An Acclamation of Thanksgiving for God's Gifts

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

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A Also found on page 361 in <u>The Book of Common Prayer</u>

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus:

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: 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.

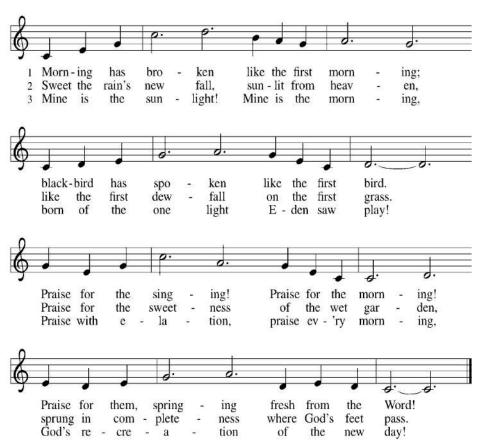
Receiving communion: All are welcome at God's table. We are offering both bread and wine. If you would like to receive the wine by common cup, go to the right. If you would like to receive by intinction, go to the left.

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.

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. The Congregation is invited to sing the following during communion.



Morning has broken



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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The Postcommunion Prayer

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

All creatures of our God and King

The Mission of Holy Comforter

Love God, Love Others

Serve God, Serve Others



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 (706-210-1133) 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*.

Today

We welcome you to this service of blessing and thanksgiving to our pets. This is somewhat abbreviated for the sake of our pets! This service is more than just a thanksgiving for animals but a focus on how we are called to be caretakers of a Creation that is under increasing threat because of our own actions.

Following the service you can receive individual blessings for your animals on the lawn and pick up the treats for pets.

Please Note: Refer to the Pet Do's and Don'ts below to get the most out of this service.



This will be a new experience for your pets. Not all animals want to interact with other animals. Just because your pet is friendly that doesn't mean other animals are; don't let them interact with other animals. This is how dog fights begin.

You will want to put some space between you, your pet and other participants.

If you have a dog, please keep your dog on a lead and at your side at all times.

Your leash for dogs should be 4 feet or shorter. Keep your eyes on your pet.

If you have a retractable leash, keep it on lock mode. Don't let pets run out to the end of the lead.

If you need to take your animal outside during the service, feel free to do so. Waste bags are available.

There are several watering stations for all animals outside.

At the conclusion of the service process outside where there will be refreshments for you and your pets and individual blessings by the pastor.

Leftovers from Sunday

There are many serving dishes and containers left behind in the kitchen. Please take a look and see if you need to take something home.

Ramblings with the Rector

Wednesday, October 18 from 8:30-10am: Father Glenn will host "Ramblings with the Rector" at the Dunkin Donuts down the street from the church. We'll get together for coffee and casual conversation about any topic folks want to discuss.

Bible Study: Women of the Bible

Bible Study: Women of the Bible First Tuesday of every month Starting October 3, 2023 at 7pm

Come join us at Holy Comforter to study Women of the Bible! We meet the first Tuesday of each month to study the scriptures and share thoughts & stories as we unpack the lives of Women of the Bible. We will gather to learn together and from each other. This study is not limited to any particular group and nothing is required to attend, except the Bible, your mind and openness.

The first session meets this Tuesday, October 3 at 7pm in the downstairs classroom. It will be a casual discussion - come ready to share about the impact of a woman's story from the Bible that has touched you in some way- inspiration, revelation, challenged your thinking or faith, etc. That evening we will also choose the woman of focus for each month to study and discuss going forward. Hope to see your smiling faces!

Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be offered on All Saint's Sunday, November 5 at 10:30am. If you or your child wishes to be baptized, contact the church office at 706-210-1133 or speak with Father Glenn.

The Rector's Forum

Sunday mornings at 9:15am: A 12-week Rector's Forum reading and discussing the book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* written by the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Website Design

If you are interested in being part of our website redesign and update, you are invited to a meeting on WED October 18 from 1100-1145. You can join Father Glenn and Vivian in the office or we can send you a link to dial in. Your creativity is welcomed!

The Men's Group

The Holy Comforter Men's Group meets Tuesday, October 10 at 6:00pm at Pizza Central, 526 N. Belair Road in Evans. All are welcome!

The Book Club

The Book Club meets Wednesday, October 11 at 10am in the Parish Hall to discuss the book *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. A modern retelling of *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, Kingsolver forces the reader to look at our foster care system, child labor, derelict schools, abuse and addiction. Amidst all the horrors this child experiences somehow a thread of hope weaves through the story. All are welcome!

Youth Ministry

Sunday Night Fellowship is scheduled to resume October 15, from 5:30 - 7:30pm. We will meet at Stars and Strikes for some games, dinner, and fellowship. More information to follow.

Threads of Comfort

The next meeting of the Threads of Comfort ministry is Thursday, October 19th at 10:00am and 5:00pm in the Parish Hall. Questions? Contact Linda Bargeron at lhbargeron@gmail.com or Gail Jarrell at gjarrell4@comcast.net.

Taizé Service

~ Setting aside time to be quiet and present ~

Thursday, October 26 at 7pm: Taizé is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Chants, prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment.



WOMEN'S RETREAT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 10AM-2PM
LUNCH PROVIDED

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
INVITE ALL WOMEN OF OUR CONGREGATION AND THEIR FRIENDS TO ATTEND
THE RETREAT BASED ON THE BOOK, JOYFUL BY INGRID FETELL LEE.

THE COST IS \$15 AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THE BOOK AND LUNCH AS YOU SHARE A DAY OF WHIMSY, LAUGHTER, MUSIC, SHARING AND PRAYER.

SIGN UP WILL BE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH & 15TH IN THE VESTIBULE.

QUESTIONS?
PLEASE CONTACT
MARY KELLY 206-859-8418
OR LINDA HOOGLAND 404-510-0322

Mark your Calendar: Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 18, 8:30-10am "Ramblings with the Rector" at Dunkin Donuts on Fury's Ferry

Saturday, October 21, 10am-2pm DOK Retreat at Holy Comforter

Sunday, October 22 at 10:30am
The Service of Admission
The Order of the Daughters of the King

Thursday, October 26, 7-8pm Taizé worship service

Sunday, November 5 at 10:30am All Saints' Sunday

Thursday, November 9-11Diocesan Convention

Thursday, November 16, 6:30-8:30pm Movie and Discussion Night Martin Sheen's *The Way*

Thursday, November 30, 7-8pm Taizé worship service

Sunday, December 10 at 10:30am Advent Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 21 at 6pm
Blue Christmas service

Notes:

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: Wendell Dodson, Kurt Byrd, Ashley, and Cooper

For those celebrating birthdays: Sharon Attaway, Jack Rymer, Lochlan Rymer, Joe Haddow, Bill Liebel, and Carter Wallace

For those celebrating anniversaries: Stephen and Shannon Recupero, Brien and Jennifer Cardinal

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

For those in residential care: 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 on Tuesday mornings 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!

The Master's Table: Donate *travel size* shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, white cotton socks for men/women. All items must be *new* and *unopened*. Also plastic, not styro-foam take-out containers for food. Place items in the red bucket under the kitchen sink.

Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant
Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Altar Bread
Prayer Team
Reader
Pre-Service Greeter
Media Crew

Vestry Person of the Day

The Rev. Glenn A. Palmer
Barry Paschal and Tab Carter
Brandon Belair and Andrew Recupero
Alison Moseley
Carol Page
Harriet Myers and Joy Waldo
Emily Milburn
Linda Hoogland
Dave Blake and Dan Doughtie
Jenny Quebedeaux

Staff

The Rev. Glenn A. Palmer, Priest in Charge, 803-319-5296 Robert Maddox, Youth Ministry Leader Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator Lara Fort, Financial Secretary Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

Vestry

Tab Carter, Sr. Warden, Pam Vanscoy, Jr. Warden (Class of 2024) Jenny Quebedeaux, Barry Paschal (Class of 2025) Heather Doughtie, Keith Milburn (Class of 2026)

Mailing Address: 473 Fury's Ferry Rd., Martinez, GA 30907 Telephone: (706) 210-1133 / Fax: (706) 210-4515 Web: holycomforterchurch.org

General Email: mailbox@holycomforterchurch.org

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

Like us on Facebook!

Find our page at "Church of the Holy Comforter" and join the conversation!



Visit our Website by scanning our QR code