Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026



Title: Leah & Rachel
Artist: Darius Gilmont

The **9:30am** Service begins on **page 6**

Parish Notes begins on **page 16**

CHRIST CHURCH

5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
732.545-6262 • ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH, an Episcopal parish of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship this morning, and to receive Holy Communion or a blessing at the communion rail. We invite you to ask questions, explore, and to make yourself known to those around you. Please pick up any other information about the parish located on the table in the back of the church. Tell us more about yourself by filling out one of the cards located in each pew. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES. Changing stations are available in both rest rooms at the Paterson Street entrance; you can get there through the side door of the church.

WE REJOICE that you have chosen to worship here this Pentecost season. If you would like to learn more about our Parish, please phone the Parish Office at 732.545.6262. Many of our upcoming events are listed on our web site, christchurchnewbrunswick.org; we hope that you decide to join us.

YOU ARE INVITED to worship with us any Sunday.

Our regular service time is 9:30 AM.

FREE PARKING VOUCHERS
Are available for the Lower Church Street parking deck next to the church grounds.
Please see an usher for a voucher and instructions.

INTERCESSIONS

AT EVERY CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST prayer is offered with intercession for the Universal Church, the nation, the welfare of the world, the concerns of this community, those who suffer and those in any trouble, and the departed. Please feel free to add your own petitions during the prayers, either silently or aloud. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, you may also fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.

WEEKLY INTERCESSIONS

We remember in today's prayers:
The Sick and Others in Need— *Alena, Carlos Jr., Emily, Jane, Jeannine, Lizette, Michael, Milton, Pat, Patricia, Robin, Rozie, Sarah, Suzanne, Timothy, Vincent*
Anglican Cycle *– we pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania*
Diocesan Cycle *– Members and Ministry of the Diocesan Immigration Task Force*
Christ Church Ministry *– Altar Guild*
Birthdays this week *– Alex D'Onofrio, Laura Jones, James Nichols*
Flower Memorial *– Barbara Hoagland in memory of Robert E. Hoagland, Anne Marie Brockett and William Carr in memory of Joan Brockett and Joseph and Jean Carr, Mr. James J. Bates in memory of Mildred and James Bates*

PASTORAL CARE

If you are in crisis, having surgery, are in the hospital and are in need of pastoral counseling from a clergy person, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Scott Russel– 732.545.6262 ext. 1 or Rev. Daphne P. Roberts—732.545.6262 ext. 3

If you would like to schedule home communion, please contact Rev. Roberts and she will arrange for either herself, or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor to bring communion to you. Please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Russell or Rev. Roberts if you know of someone who is in need of care or counseling.

THE VESTRY

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Worshipping God Serving God's People
Christ Church New Brunswick

July 26, 2026
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM



THE HOLY EUCHARIST Rite II

PRELUDE

Please stand and sing at the Procession

ENTRANCE HYMN "O God of Bethel, by whose hand" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 # 709**

THE WORD OF GOD

All who are able please stand as the ministers enter and sing

The Presider welcomes the people and says

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

COLLECT OF PURITY *BCP, page 355*

The Presider says

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.***

GLORIA *BCP, page 356*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Presider says to the people

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: *Genesis 29:15-28*

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

PSALM 105:1-11, 45b

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
7 He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."
45b Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE *Romans 8:26-39*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus,

who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GRADUAL HYMN "God moves in a mysterious way" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 #677**

THE GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

SERMON Rev. Scott Russell

All who are able please stand

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

Leader Responding, "In the joy of the Resurrection," let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others.

The Leader requests the prayers of the People of God for the world, the mission of the Church, and for those individuals who have asked for or need our prayers. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.
After the last petition, the Presider adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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

Presider: 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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN "Seek ye first the kingdom" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 # 711**

Scan this code to support Christ Church's ministries and outreach to the community.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP page 361*

Presider The Lord be with you.
ALL **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
ALL **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider 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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: ,

SANCTUS

ALL **Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,**
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Presider 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 many 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

ALL **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

ALL **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the bread. After a period of silence, all sing

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
ALL **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

INVITATION

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

The congregation may kneel or sit following the Invitation. All are most welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion this morning, you are cordially invited to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak to the member of the clergy who is serving the bread.

The Bread and Cup are given to the Communicants with these words

Minister The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Recipient **Amen.**
Minister The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
Recipient **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer For Those Joining Us Online:

Gracious God, our sustainer and source of all good things in the universe. As we gather in community this day, we are mindful of those who through circumstance or conscience are unable to partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation at this time. You are the source of the food and water which nourishes and sustains us. As we are the product of all we have partaken, we know that we are infused with your life-giving food and drink and that are never separated from you. Though we are many, we are joined in Christ. We are one Body, one Cup in the name of the One God. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN "In remembrance of me" **Red LEVAS Hymnal II #149**

All who are able please stand

AFTER COMMUNION

Presider *Let us pray.*

All **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.**

FINAL HYMN "God is working his purpose out" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982 #534**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

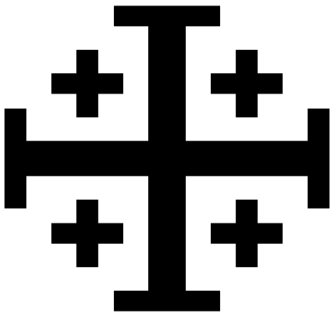
The Presider blesses the people.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



PARISH NOTES

PARISH SCHEDULE FOR JULY 26– AUGUST 1

Parish Office Hours This Week:
Tuesday – 9:30am to 3:00pm, Friday – 9:30am to 1:00pm

Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Choir Warm Up
	9:30 a.m.	**Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary**
Wednesday	**12:00p.m.**	**Noonday Prayer, Zoom**
	7:30 p.m.	WomenSpirit, Zoom

*JOIN US AFTER THE 9:30 AM SERVICE FOR COFFEE HOUR IN THE NICHOLAS ROOM

Sunday, August 2
Rite I

Sunday, August 9
Morning Prayer

RaiseRight™
Formerly ShopWithScrip

Paul Ambos will be placing a new card order on the morning of **Monday, August 3**. Please place your orders accordingly. If you plan to mail an order with a check, please (a) mail it by **Wednesday, July 29**, or, better, (b) advise Paul by email when you mail it of what your order is so that I can place it on time despite possible Post Office delays. Or, if you place your own order directly on the RaiseRight website or app, I will be able to see it there when I order the monthly batch.

If you need help in registering with RaiseRight or have forgotten your previous sign-in information, please email him and I'll send you a new invitation.

You can avoid writing a check by using their payment options through your checking account of credit card (checking costs a 29 cent charge per order; credit cards charge a percentage that is usually more). And if you want physical cards delivered directly to your home, you can do that through the app, although you will be charged for delivery. If you order for delivery through Paul, the church covers the delivery charge.

Thank you for your support of this parish program.

JULY 26, 2026
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**	**Parables of the kingdom**
Monday	**1 Kings 3:5-12**	**Solomon's prayer for wisdom**
Tuesday	**Romans 8:26-39**	**God's love in Christ Jesus**
Wednesday	**Genesis 29:15-28**	**Jacob marries**
Thursday	**Psalm 103:8-14**	**The Lord's wonderful love**
Friday	**Hebrews 4:14-16**	**Jesus the great high priest**
Saturday	**Psalm 119:129-136**	**The glories of God's law**
Sunday	**Matthew 14:13-21**	**Jesus feeds the five thousand**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and strengthen us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, we thank you for daily food; as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God's face shine on you with kindness. (Psalm 119:135)

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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JULY 26, 2026

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

For by Grace You

Have Been Saved

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think of a person who you consider to be wise. What makes them wise?
- When you are going through tough times, do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 and 1 Kings 3:5-12.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating the good from the bad. There are details in these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. Jesus asked the disciples if they *"understood all this,"* and without hesitation they simply replied, *"Yes"* (Matthew 13:51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here. Whereas, Solomon simply wants wisdom and is praised by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12), yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes became split into two realms because of Solomon's failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded, with humility, that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us *"with sighs too deep for words"* (Romans 8:26).

Discuss: How has faith in God helped you during difficult times?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help or support someone who is struggling with a health issue?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things (Matthew 13:31-32). Growing the church involves being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Think or talk about how you have told your faith story or passed on Christian rituals and traditions to others. How might you sow seeds of faith that grow into something great?

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to grow your kingdom and take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught us. Amen.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

	July 26 **9:30 A.M.** Rite II	**August 2** **9:30 A.M.** Rite I
Presider	Rev. Scott Russell	Rev. Scott Russell
Preacher	Rev. Scott Russell	Rev. Scott Russell
Deacon		Daphne P. Roberts
Organist	Danielle Whitman	Danielle Whitman
Lector & Intercessor	Paul Ambos	
LEM	Kevin Stansbury	Debra Lowe
Vestry Announcements	Jim Nichols	
Usher	Peggy Smith/ Mel Garber	Peggy Smith/ Mel Garber
Production Minister	Jonathan Gloster	Karen Bemis
Altar Guild	Mervis Johnson/ Margaret Brown-Stansbury	Nancy Walworth/ Sheila Cooper
Coffee Hour	Isha Davies	

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
WORSHIPPING GOD, SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
Christ Episcopal Church is a diverse and inclusive Christian community. We bear witness to the love and justice of Christ through worship, music, and service.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

5 Paterson Street ▪ New Brunswick NJ 08901
732.545.6262 ▪ christchurchnewbrunswick.org



The Reverend Daniel Scott Russell, *Interim Rector*
The Reverend Daphne P. Roberts, *Deacon*
Suzanne McDonald, *Director of Music and Organist*
Brittney Girault, *Business Operations Manager*
Elaine Winkler, *Bookkeeper*
Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*

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