

The Reverend Bob Farrow, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Music Director

The 20th Sunday After Pentecost

October 11, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Please be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is a house of prayer for all people.

PRELUDE

All stand as able and sing.

PROCESSIONAL		Hymnal 556	Rejoice, ye pure in heart! (vv. 1-5) <i>Marion</i>
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OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 25:1-9

Lector: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM | Psalm 23



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson. You're welcome to join in. If you don't read music, the note changes on the italicized words.

1 The Lord is my *shepherd*; * I shall not be in *want*.

2 He makes me lie down in green *pastures* * and leads me beside still *waters*.

3 He revives my *soul* * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's *sake*.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no *evil*;
* for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort *me*.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble *me*; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running *over*.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my *life*, * and
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for *ever*.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | Philippians 4:1-9

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

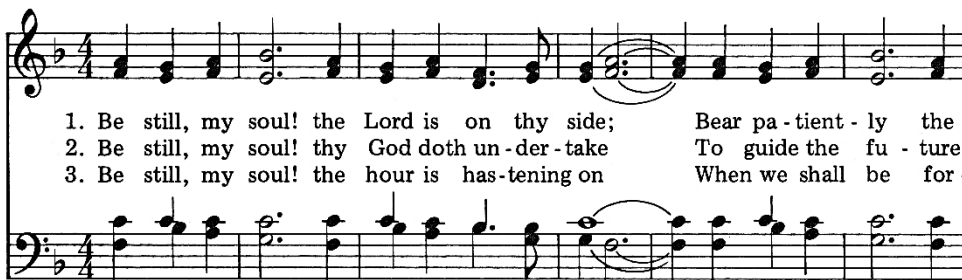
Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

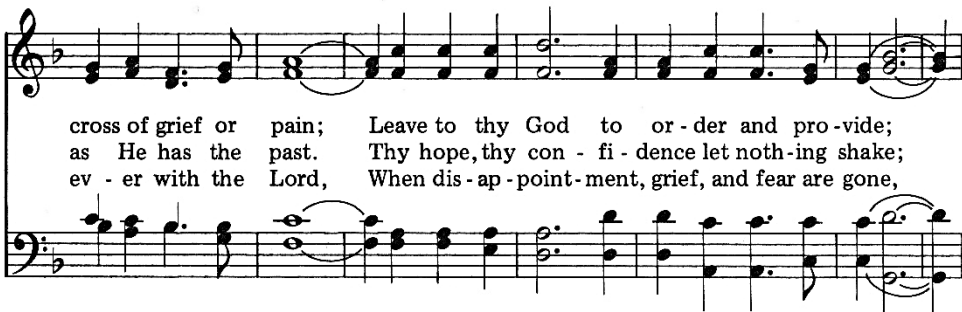
All stand as able and sing.

SEQUENCE HYMN |

Be Still, My Soul
See next page



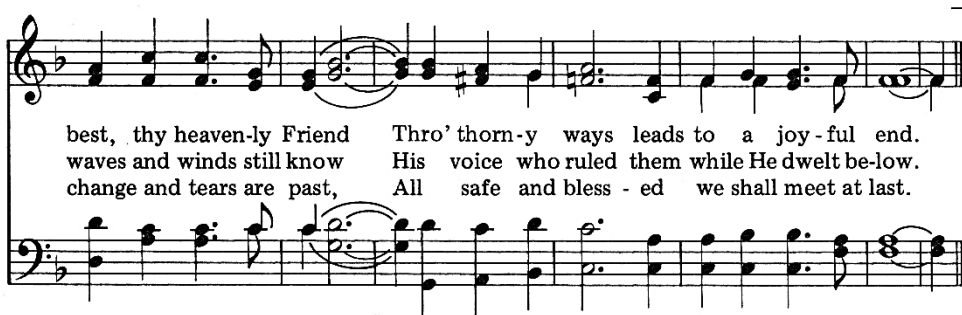
1. Be still, my soul! the Lord is on thy side; Bear pa-tient-ly the
 2. Be still, my soul! thy God doth un-der-take To guide the fu-ture
 3. Be still, my soul! the hour is has-tening on When we shall be for-



cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide;
 as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;
 ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,



In ev-ery change He faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul! thy
 All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! the
 Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul! when



best, thy heaven-ly Friend Thro' thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
 change and tears are past, All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

TEXT: Katharina von Schlegel; translated by Jane L. Borthwick
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius
 A lower setting may be found at No. 535

FINLANDIA
 10.10.10.10.10.10.

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THE GOSPEL | Matthew 22:1-14

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated for the sermon.

THE SERMON

Rev. Bob Farrow

All stand as able.

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
for the 20th Sunday After Pentecost

From *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for
the Revised Common Lectionary*

Please kneel or stand as you are able. The Intercessor and People pray responsively.

Lord God, we lift our hopes and desires to you as we pray, "Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer."

Be with your church; move it towards righteousness; lead it to unity of purpose and mission, and guard it from all evils. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Care for this nation and its people, grant us courage to face up to the ways we fall short of its promises and show us how to work together to increase liberty and dignity for all who live here. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Deepen our commitment to our neighbors; open our eyes and hearts and hands to those in need that we might continue Christ's work among them. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Energize us for the work of creation care, that we and all future generations might experience fully the abundance of the world you created and placed us in. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant your mercy on the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families, and on the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Fulfill the longing for healing and peace to all who suffer in any way; mend what is broken in our lives and in the lives of those we love. Especially we pray for Katherine, Wesley, Nonie, David, Hollis, Jamie, Peggy, Jimmy, Larry, Deborah, and the grieving family and friends of Linda. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give rest to those who have died; let them grow in your love, and deliver them into the resurrection of your new age. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Holy God, who knows our needs and wants better than we know ourselves, be with your people and sustain us with your promises that we might participate in your salvation. All this we ask through Jesus, your son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and always. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together

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.

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

OFFERTORY HYMN | Booklet 47

Love Lifted Me

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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.**

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 you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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 | Holy, holy, holy Lord

See next page

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The people stand or kneel as able.

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:

Together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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,

**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.**

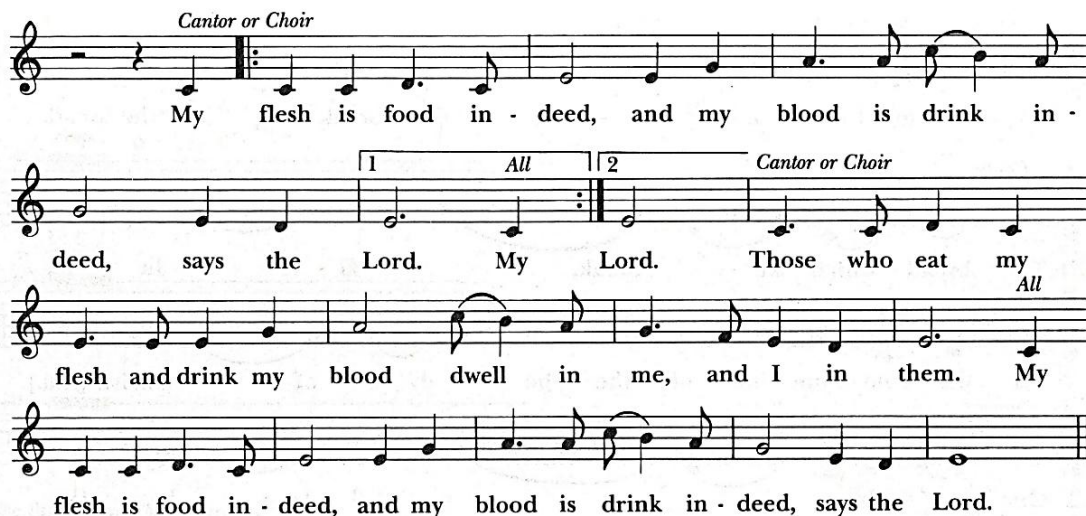
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**



Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my

flesh and drink my blood dwell in me, and I in them. My

flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

Setting: Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950)

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Celebrant:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All people are invited to receive Communion. The ushers will come stand by your pew, at which time you may go kneel or stand at the railing. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have mobility challenges and need communion brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION HYMN

What a friend we have in Jesus

The hymn will be performed by Kevin Anderson.

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECESSIONAL | Hymnal 657

Love divine, all love excelling
Hyfrydol

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room,
to the left as you exit the nave.**

St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Katherine Johnson, Wesley Brown, Nonie Bueche, David Mullins, Hollis Hale, Jamie Webb, Peggy Sivell, Jimmy Hatchett, Larry Culpepper, Deborah Culpepper, and the congregation of Christian Valley as they mourn Linda Sterling. Continuing prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, and Mary Butcher.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster

VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry,
and Steve Morse
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

SERVING THIS WEEK

Lector: Lynn Norris
Ushers: Charles & Lynn Norris
Virtual Minister: Katherine Johnson
Eucharistic Minister: Martha Dimon
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson
Flowers: Beth Brown

UPCOMING DATES

OCT 18: Vestry Meeting
OCT 21: Cookies, Crafts, and Conversation: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
OCT 22: Harris County Truck & Treat 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR LIZ! Liz Dixon, long-time faithful member of St. Nicholas who is now in skilled care, will be turning **100** on October 20. Kellie would love for everyone to send her a birthday card. Send it care of Kellie on Winfree Road – if you don't have access to the church directory, contact Erin for the address.

It's October – Candy Time! St. Nicholas will have a table at Harris County's Truck & Treat event at Mike Tracey Arena on October 22. We need candy to hand out to the local kids. If you are able to grab an extra bag when you shop for your own, that would be great! Just put it in the box in the kitchen – and thanks!

All Saints/All Souls is November 1. In observance of All Saints' Sunday on November 2, we will read the names of our loved ones who have passed away. Send the names of people whose memories you would like to honor to Erin in the church office by Wednesday, October 28 to be included.

Quarterly Pledge Statements went out October 6, via email. If you pledged either to the 2026 annual pledge or the Capital Campaign and did not receive a statement, contact Erin in the office. Erin can also provide hard copies on request.

The **St. Nicholas Book Club** chose *Code Name: Hélène* by Ariel Lawhon for its next reading selection. A gripping WWII tale based on the true story of Nancy Wake, journalist turned Resistance fighter, this is sure to be a page-turner. Find out more about the book in your weekly newsletter! The Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month after Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m.

QUILT RAFFLE: Kathy Torres made a lovely homemade quilt to be raffled off, with the benefits going to the Capital Campaign. You can see the quilt in the Gathering Room. We will draw on October 25 during our Capital Campaign celebration. Tickets are a donation of \$5, or 6 for \$25. Drop a check in the offering basket or use Vanco (see the sign in the Gathering Room for QR codes). Erin will prepare your tickets and leave you your stubs on October 25.

Get all the news: Use this QR code to go to the most recent newsletter!



Coming up!

- Advent Adult Forum series
- Harris County Family Connections **Christmas Family Giving Tree**. The deadline is early, so get ready to do some shopping in November!
- **Faithful Innovations**: a series of Zoom and in-person workshops by the Diocese that will empower church congregants to deepen their own and their congregation's spirituality, engage and inspire leadership, discern God's leading, and affirm their faith that God has a vital role for our congregation to play. More information to come, but see Father Bob if you're interested.

