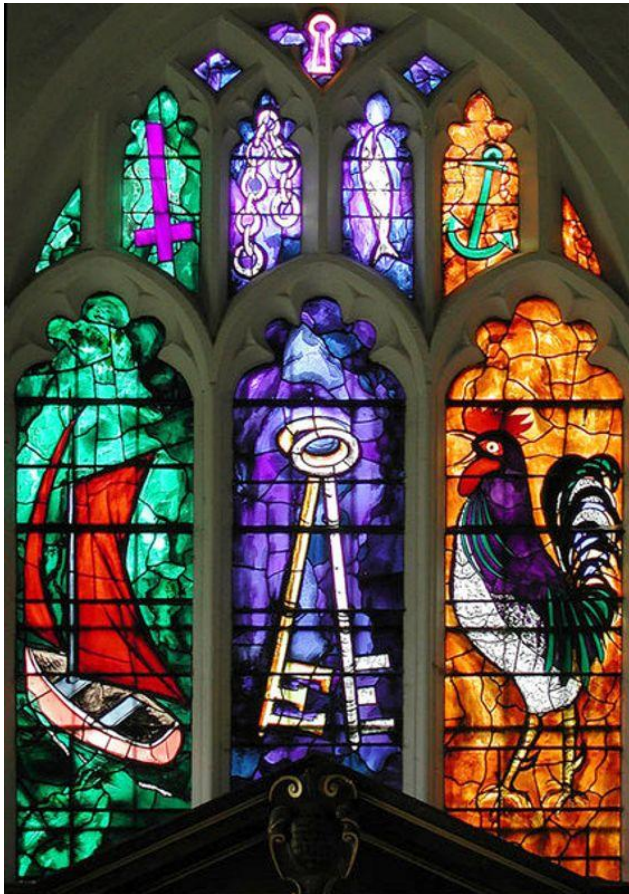
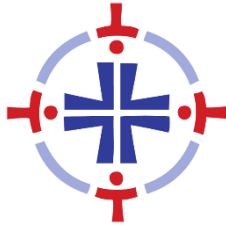




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 23, 2026**



Welcome to St. Simon's

Celebrating God's love for all. Embodying Christ in the world.

If you are here today, you belong, no matter where you are on your journey of faith. Welcome.

St Simon's is a joyful and hopeful congregation that invites all who seek God into community, questions and doubts included. Please feel free to participate as fully in the worship of God as you wish. Lift your voice in praise, respond to the prayers and readings, and come to the altar for communion or a blessing. Or, if you prefer, sit back quietly and allow God's Spirit to speak to you in the way that feels most comfortable.

Welcome, Children. You are invited as full participants in our worship just as you are. God delights in you.

Welcome, Elders. Your wisdom and experience are valued in our community. God has shaped you and you are beautiful.

Welcome, you.

Welcome, everyone, to God's table. This is the table of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and all who seek God are invited to share in communion. If you wish to participate, but prefer not to receive communion, please join everyone coming forward. Cross your arms over your chest and we will be glad to give you a blessing instead. If you wish to have communion brought to you at your seat, or if you desire a gluten-free wafer, please notify an usher.

Wherever you find yourself on the journey, there is a place for you here.
May you encounter God in this community.

The Holy Eucharist

** Indicates the assembly stands, if able.*

*All portions of the service in **Bold** are spoken by the assembly.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

We are here because Jesus has called us -
strangers and friends,
locals and visitors,
believers and doubters,
the certain and the curious.

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites to his table where, in bread and wine,
he meets us
and through him we, who are different,
Are joined to each other.

So come,
not because you understand,
but because you are understood.

Come,
not because of how you feel,
but because God has food for you.

Come,
Not because you deserve a place,
but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.

Opening Hymn “Savior, like a shepherd lead us”



1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
 2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us
 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's



ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
 learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion



for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
 with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,



Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.
 ev - er faith - ful, to thy truth may we be found.

Blessed be God: the Author, the Only-Begotten, and the Gift.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Gloria

S202

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y.
4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;
5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the

right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.

8. For thou on-ly art ho-ly; thou on-ly art the Lord; 9. thou

on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most

high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.____

A - - - - - men.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Living God, you sent your Son among us to reveal your wisdom and make known your ways. Increase our faith, that we may confess Jesus as your Son, take up his work on earth, and trust his promise to sustain the Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The Assembly is seated

The First Lesson

Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;

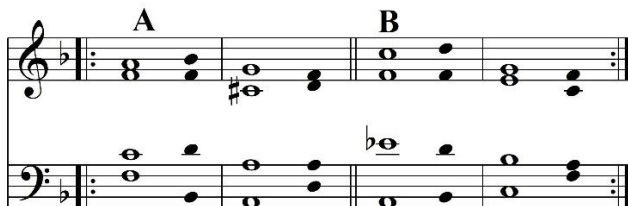
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 138



adapted from Edward Hodges (1796-1867)

- A I thank you with all I am,
I join heaven's chorus.
- B I bow toward your holy temple,
to praise your name.
- A By your love and fi-delity,
you display to all the glory of your name and promise.
- B As soon as I call, you act,
renewing my strength.

- A Around the world rulers praise you
for your commanding word.
- B They sing of your ways,
"Great is your glory, Lord."
- A Though high up, you see the lowly;
though far away, you keep an eye on the proud.
- B When I face an op-ponent,
you keep me a-live.
- A You reach out your hand, your right hand saves me.
Lord, take up my cause,
- B your love lasts for ever.
Do not abandon what your hands have made.

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-8

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given

to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Assembly stands as they are able to face the Gospeler.

***The Gospel Procession**

All join in singing once through both before and after the gospel.

Organ Introduction: 



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. A - men.

***The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered,

“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Jenny Hulén

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

***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.

The Prayers of the People

Recognizing God is always present and active in the events of our world and our lives, let us welcome all we experience, consenting to God's action in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

We open ourselves to the present moment and embrace what is
(Silence)

We welcome fear and anxiety, inviting God's presence in them
(*Silence*)

We welcome joy and delight, recognizing God's face there
(*Silence*)

We welcome brokenness and vulnerability, resting in God's tenderness toward us and those we love. We especially hold Mary Edith, Jan, Sunita, Maria, Sandy, Judy, Martin, Makayla, Teri-Ellen, James, Marc, Trish, Pat and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital in your light
(*Silence*)

We welcome the memory of all those we love but see no more, especially Jerry.
(*Silence*)

We hold our enemies in compassion
(*Silence*)

We release our need to control and our fear of the unknown
(*Silence*)

We surrender our judgments and expectations
(*Silence*)

We let go of our desire for esteem and approval
(*Silence*)

We consent to your action in us and in the world around us, offering ourselves to you and to each other. Through Christ our brother, with the aid of the Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen**

***The Confession and Absolution**

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. 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**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Ministers and Assembly stand to greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Blessing Birthdays and Anniversaries

All those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries of any kind are invited to add their name to the chat on Zoom or feed on Facebook

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Engagement Opportunities

Offertory *Text 73256 to give. In the body of the text type saintsimons*

Offertory Anthem “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.”
Sung by the St. Simon’s Pop-Up Choir

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;

4 Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Text: Dorothy Thrupp,
Music: William Roberts

*Presentation of the Gifts



Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures



here be - low; Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Cre -



a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you thanks, Holy One, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain, have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment. And grateful as we are for the world we know, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering; his fearless dying, and his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -

- in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and said, “This is my body, broken for you.”

Later he took a cup of wine and said, “This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.”

Merciful God, send now in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us,

converting us from the patterns of this world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

By Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Holy God, throughout all the ages of ages.

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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains a whole rest followed by a half note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a quarter note G. The second staff continues with a half note A, a quarter note B, a half note C, a quarter note D, a half note E, a quarter note F#, a half note G, and a quarter note A. The third staff begins with a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, a quarter note G, a half note A, and a quarter note B. The lyrics are: "O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, that".

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

Behold what you are.

May we become what we receive.

The Presider and those worshipping online consume the host together with these words:

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

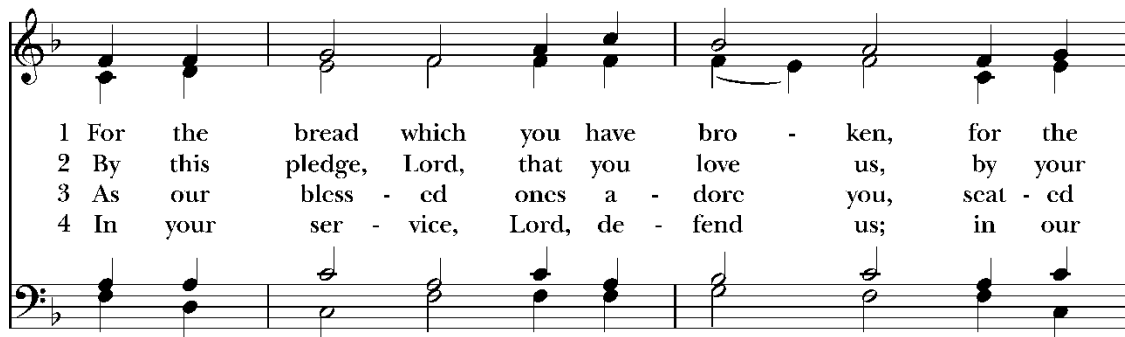
Everyone has a place at God's table and all are invited to share in communion. You may stand or kneel at the rail. Wine is offered in individual cups around the outside of the tray. Grape juice is offered in the middle. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. If you would like to participate but do not wish to receive the bread and wine, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

Both the common cup (chalice) and individual cups are offered. Join the line for the chalice on the left (pulpit) side or the line on the right (screen) side to receive the individual cups. Grape juice is available in the individual cups.

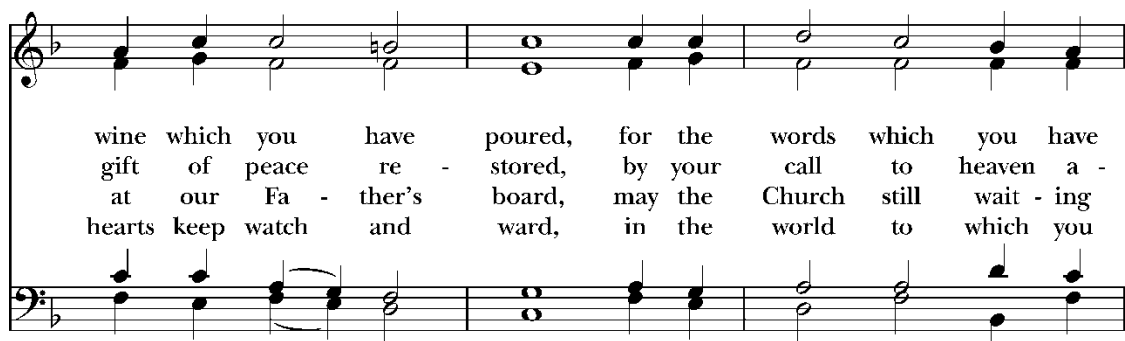
Note: Generally, we will begin to sing the communion hymn once the final group of communion recipients has knelt at the rail. This way, more of the congregation can fully participate in singing most of the communion hymn.

Communion Hymn 341 ♡ “For the bread which you have broken bread ”

Omni die



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your
 3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

***Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**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.**

When members of the community are unable to attend the service, representatives of the people are sent with bread and wine to extend our communion with them.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

***The Blessing**

May the wind of the Spirit startle your senses
and blow through your life;
may the fire of the Spirit scorch your complacency
and light your way.
And may the blessing of the Holy One—
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—
rest with you now and forever more. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn 518** ♪ “Christ is made the sure foundation” *Cheshire*



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er



bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

***Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Space “I Spy” Adventure –

This summer we are drawing attention to the places our building tells a story about ourselves and about God.



< Can you spot this? What it tells us about our story:

What’s a menorah doing in a Christian church? Start with “what *is* a menorah?” It is the original seven-lamp, six-branch candleholder, which was made for the Tabernacle and later used in the Temple of Jerusalem. That menorah

was made of pure gold and lit with consecrated fresh olive oil, as per the mandates of God. The Tabernacle was the tent of/for worship which God instructed Moses to build, a traveling worship space, and the gold given to the Israelites by the Egyptians as they fled (hoping the God of Moses would spare them) was melted down and used to make very specific candle sticks and other items for the worship space.

So, what does this tell St. Simon’s? We’re not appropriating this potent Jewish symbol but because we claim kinship to Abraham’s family, the Jewish (and Muslim) people, the menorah from the traveling tent of worship, reminds us of the importance of light. Christians talk about the “Light of Christ” or “Jesus as the Light of the World” and seven candles gives an example of abundance of illumination. What if we look at that menorah and are reminded of the call to spread the light of God’s abundant love everywhere we go. Pharaoh would have hated that, but Moses would be okay with it!

LIVE-STREAM NOTICE

A reminder, this public service will be live-streamed and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear in the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media.

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St. Simon's Episcopal Church

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847.259.2930 ~ office@saintsimons.org ~ www.saintsimons.org

Parish Office Hours ~ Monday—Thursday ~ 9:00am—3:00pm

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago*

The Rev. Jennifer Hulen, *Rector*
Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*
Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Crucifer	Dave Howley
Chalice Minister	Rene Campe
Readers	Mike Bruce
	Deborah Dresser
Intercessor	Rene Schreiner
Ushers	Robbin Thompson
Altar Guild	Maura Howley
Porter	Rich Milburn
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	David Romanowski

Answer: The Moses window is on the west/left side of the church, middle one.
Check the lower right corner.