

PALM SUNDAY



MARCH 29, 2026

8:00AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP

10:15AM ONLINE/IN-PERSON WORSHIP

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ROYAL OAK, MI

Welcome!

We're a
Believe 
OUTLOUD[™]
Episcopal Congregation

We are St. John's, a parish that invites you to enter the open doors of our community and warmly embraces you when you do. At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here. *St. John's Welcome Statement - Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016*

Palm Sunday

Our High Holy Days are rich with beauty, symbolism, and tradition. On Palm Sunday, we begin by recalling Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, welcomed as a "King," as we shout and sing "Hosanna!" - a cry of praise for royalty. We end by retelling the story of his betrayal, arrest, and execution as a "criminal."

This is a powerful service, concluding in silence. From that moment, we enter Holy Week. Please join us for Tenebrae (Holy Wednesday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. You are always welcome - this week and throughout the liturgical year.

All are welcome! Everyone belongs!



St. John's Episcopal Church

26998 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48067

stjohnsroyaloak.org | 248-546-1255

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-----THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS-----

The congregation gathers outside the Woodward Avenue entrance.

Presider †Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Presider Beloved in Christ, for these forty days we have journeyed with Jesus from the wilderness up to the gates of Jerusalem. As we join with all the faithful and celebrate his entry in both triumph and humility, let us welcome him with cries of "Hosanna," and may his praise be on our lips even as we walk with him toward the cross and the grave, confident in God's power to save. Let us pray:

All **Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that as we greet our Savior with joy at his entry into Jerusalem, we may follow him in humility and contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

READING

Matthew 21:1-11

Reader When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them' and he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider The great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So, they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

People **‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’**

Presider †In your love, O God, let these palm branches be for us signs of the joyful welcome we make in our hearts and with our lives for the Holy One, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **May we who carry them follow him this day and to eternal life. Amen!**

Presider The disciples brought a young donkey and Jesus sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

People **Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Presider Let us go forth in peace.

People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The palm branches are distributed. The people process into the church carrying palms shouting Hosanna!

ENTRANCE HYMN (at 10:15a.m.)

All glory, laud, and honor

The Hymnal 1982, 154, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

----- THE WORD OF GOD -----

WELCOME

PRAYER FOR THE NEW RECTOR

All Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on St. John's Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE (*Spoken at 8:00a.m.*)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison (*at 10:15a.m.*)

The Hymnal 1982, S91

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and some longer notes with ties.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: PALM SUNDAY

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

Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:9-16

- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten, out of mind, as if I were dead; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD; *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant; *
and in your loving kindness save me."

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5-11

Lector A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

A period of silence is kept.

The people stand as they are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Clergy As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the paschal mystery of his death - and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all people everywhere.

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those who have asked for our prayers, especially Barbara, Gloria, Carolyn, Mimi, Sandor, Kathy, Nancy, Madiba, Gayle, Sue, Elliot, David, Elaine, Allie, Jim, Cole, Tom, David, Rich, Jennifer, Owen, Bob, Don, Rich, Brody, Hisham and those we now name _____ . Bring them the joy of your salvation.

All Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have †died, especially those we now name
_____. We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.
Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who sent your Son among us to share the pain and grief of humankind. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in every place, and as we near the cross, grant us strength on our journey; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Clergy Let us confess our sins.

All **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in our thoughts, and in our words,
by what we have done, and what we have left undone.
Lord Jesus, you come into our lives
when we are least prepared for you.
As you enfolded your betrayers,
so embrace us who struggle to love.
Reconcile us with our sisters and brothers,
with those we love, and with our enemies,
and for the sake of your love, forgive us all our sins. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND ABSOLUTION

Presider †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.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Peace is shared among the people. The people are seated.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Your pledges and financial gifts support the mission, the many ministries, the outreach, and the fellowship offered through St. John's. Gifts of pledges and offerings may be placed in collection baskets or at the basins at the steps of the altar as you come up for communion.



Give online: stjohnsroyaloak.org and click on GIVE

Text: Text "StJohnsRoyalOak" to 73256

Mail: St. John's, 26998 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48067

Envelopes: Available upon request 248-546-1255 or office@stjohnro.org

OR scan this code to be directed to the giving page.

OFFERTORY MUSIC (at 10:15a.m.)

Ride on, King Jesus (Traditional Spiritual, arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw)

Oblation bearers bring forward the gifts of bread and wine on behalf of the congregation. The ushers pass collection baskets to gather our gifts of pledges and other offerings. At the Presentation Hymn, all stand. The ushers present our gifts at the altar. The Eucharistic ministers join the clergy to prepare for Eucharist.

PRESENTATION (at 8:00a.m.)

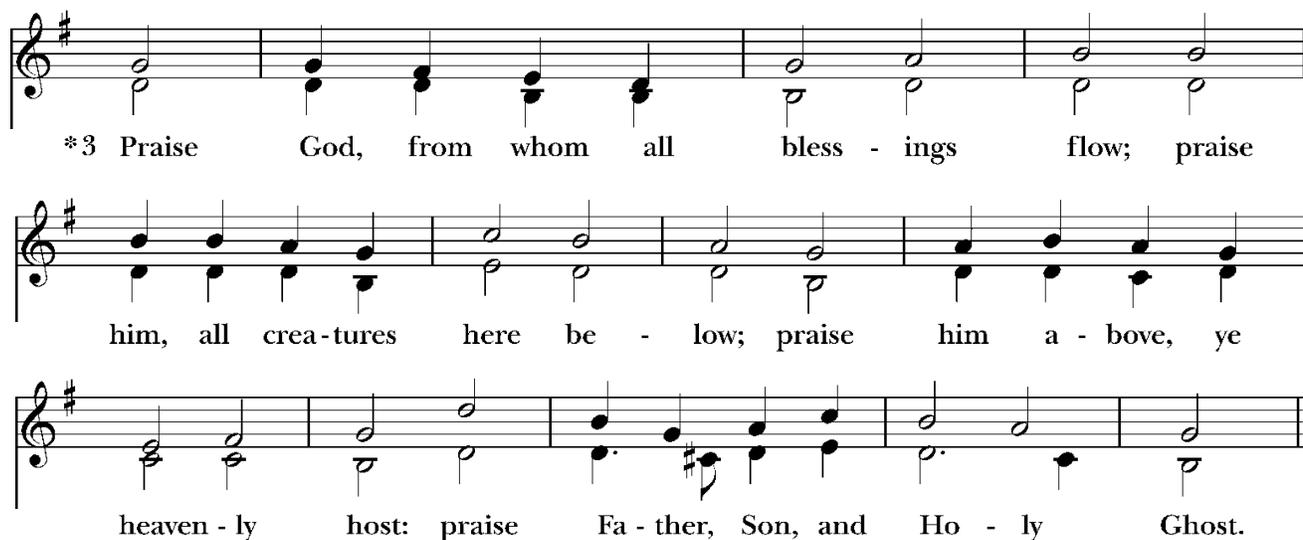
Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

PRESENTATION HYMN (at 10:15a.m.)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

The Hymnal 1982, 380, v. 3



*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

----- THE HOLY EUCHARIST -----

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. We give thanks for your son, Jesus Christ, who, giving up all he had, and walking the path of obedience all the way to insult, betrayal and death, opened the gates of justice and became our salvation.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say (sing):

SANCTUS

Presider and People (spoken at 8:00a.m.)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel as able.

Holy, Holy, Holy (at 10:15a.m.)

The Hymnal 1982, S129

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.

Presider Holy and gracious God: 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 Creator 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (*spoken at 8:00a.m.*)

Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world
People **Have mercy upon us.**
Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world
People **Have mercy upon us.**
Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world.
People **Grant us your peace.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God (*at 10:15a.m.*)

Lift Every Voice and Sing, 270

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sins of the

world: grant us peace.

This is Christ's table, and Christ is our host at this feast. Everyone who comes to the altar seeking Christ will be welcomed. The bread used for Holy Eucharist at St. John's is gluten-free. If you are unable to come to the altar, but desire Communion, please notify an usher.

Presider

These are the gifts of God.

People

And we are the people of God.

Presider

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Healing - Those who would like prayers for healing may go to the healing station in the west transept for prayers during communion.

COMMUNION HYMNS

My song is love unknown

The Hymnal 1982, 458



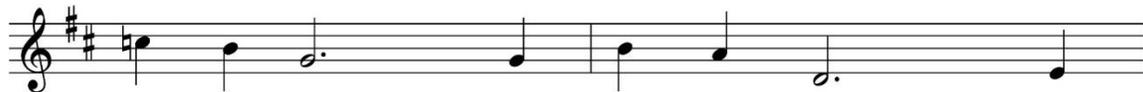
1. My song is love un - known, My
 2. He came from his blest throne, Sal -
 3. Some - times they strew his way And
 4. Why, what has my Lord done? What
 5. They rise and needs will have My
 6. In life, no house, no home My
 7. Here might I stay and sing, No



Sav - ior's love for me, Love to the love - less
 va - tion to be - stow, But all made strange, and
 his sweet prais - es sing, Re - sound - ing all the
 makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to
 dear Lord made a - way; A mur - der - er they
 Lord on earth might have; In death, no friend - ly
 sto - ry so di - vine; Nev - er was love, dear



shown That they might love - ly be. O
 none The longed - for Christ would know. But
 day Ho - san - nas to their King. Then
 run, He gave the blind their sight. Sweet
 save: The prince of life they slay. Yet
 tomb But what a stran - ger gave. What
 King, Nev - er was grief like thine. This



who am I That for my sake My
 O my friend, My friend in - deed, Who
 "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all they breathe, And
 in - jur - ies! Yet they at these Them -
 cheer - ful he To suf - f'ring goes, That
 may I say? Heav'n was his home; But
 is my friend, In whose sweet praise I



Lord shall take Frail flesh, and die?
 at my need His life did spend.
 for his death They thirst and cry.
 selves dis - please, And 'gainst him rise.
 he his foes, From thence might free.
 mine the tomb Where - in he lay.
 all my days Could glad - ly spend.

O sacred head, sore wounded

The Hymnal 1982, 168



1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;
2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;
3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,
*4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
*5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,



1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:
2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.
3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.
4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?
5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;



1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?
2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:
3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,
4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,
5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife



1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!
2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.
3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.
4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.
5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The people stand as they are able and pray together.

Presider Let us pray.

All Eternal God, 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.

BLESSING

Presider May God the Creator bless you,
God the Son heal you,
God the Holy Spirit give you strength,
This day and forever more.

All Amen.

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The people are seated. Readers tell the story of the Passion of our Lord. At the verse which mentions Jesus' arrival at "the place called The Skull," the congregation stands.

SILENT DISMISSAL

*Following the Passion story, all depart in silence.
Our observance of Holy Week has begun.*

Altar Memorials and Thanksgivings

In thanksgiving to the
Acolytes, Altar Guild, Liturgy Planning Team, Chancel Choir and Musicians, and Staff
for their thoughtful preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter.

Ministers of Today's Service: The People of St. John's Episcopal Church, Royal Oak

Acolytes

(8:00a.m.) Yve Jones
(10:15a.m.) Annalise Galat, Griffin Bruns,
Jennifer Bruns

Altar Guild

(8:00a.m.) Bob Lazich
(10:15a.m.) Kathy Stricker, Maryann LeComb

Bread Bakers

Jennifer Bartleman, Julia Bartleman

Eucharistic Ministers

(8:00a.m.) Bob Lazich, Peg Coury
(10:15a.m.) Barb Moran, Woodie Adams, Jennifer Bruns,
Jonatan Ascarruz-Asencios

Greeters

(8:00a.m.) Jackie Speer
(10:15a.m.) Lisa Phillips, Marie Donigan

Greeters during service

(8:00a.m.) Jackie Speer
(10:15a.m.) Richard Le Jeune

Healing Ministers

(8:00a.m.) -----
(10:15a.m.) Barbara Jones

8:00a.m. Lectors

John Trace – First Lesson and the Psalm
Michael Saggau – Second Lesson and Prayers of the People

10:15a.m. Lectors

Ian Babcock – First Lesson and the Psalm
Nicole Stewart – Second Lesson
Sarah Lee – Prayers of the People

Musicians

Dr. Steve McGhee, *Music Director*,
St. John's Chancel Choir, Brooklyn Pfeffer, Laila Robleh,
Cailin Weber *Choral Scholars*

Opener/Closer

Steve Fairman, Pete Kelley

Parking Lot Greeters

Gregg Barnett, Richard LeJeune

Sunday School Teachers

Tech Team

Laurie McLaughlin, Chris Bosley, Barbara Jones,
Tales Lima

Ushers

Bruce Donigan, Chris Davis, Gregory Taub

Vergers

Rachel Andrews, Kevin McLogan

Interim Rector

The Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck