The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul The First Sunday after Epiphany

January 12, 2025

10:30am ~ Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise! ~



Valente, Liz. Baptism of Jesus, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59319 [retrieved December 31, 2024]. Original source: Liz Valente, https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/.

~From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.~

SERVICE MINISTERS

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney

Musician: Dustin Ledgard
LEM: Mary Lou Pierron
Reader 1: Bernice Cramer

Reader 2: Eliza Blay Usher/Attendance: Kim Koger

Altar Guild: Margaret Hummel and Amy Trueblood
Counting: David Montgomery and Christopher Gruener

Tech: Adam Taylor

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy birthday, Tim Dunn (January 12th)!

Today's flowers are donated by Mary Lou Pierron for the glory of God and in memory of the deceased members of the Pierron and Wolff families.

IN OUR DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; and Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop; and for the following churches of the Boston Harbor Deanery: St. John & St. James Church, Roxbury, (Boston), Ecclesia Ministries and *common cathedral*, Boston; and for Hospitality Homes, The Diocesan Staff, and The Massachusetts Council of Churches.

PARISH PRAYER LIST - PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

Deb, Susan and Galen Boyer, Sarah Conger, the Katz family, David and Susanna Lee, Mary Lou and Charlie Montgomery, David Murphy, Gary Koger, David Waters, David Tabors, Barry Koger, Joyce Conolly, Matt Beavin, Jim Nolan, Gordon Ledgard, the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, and our friends in the NewCity Church.

STAFF

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney -- meghan@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours: In-Person, usually on Wednesday, 10am -1pm and by appointment (please email Rev. Meghan directly if you would like to make an appointment). Parish Administrator: Lise Brody – office@parishofstpaul.org. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

10:30am ~ The First Sunday after Epiphany (Year C) ~ ~ Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise! ~

Prelude Musicians

ENTRANCE RITES

WELCOME: From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.



Section: Baptism and Conversion Title: Shall We Gather at the River Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899) Music: Robert Lowry

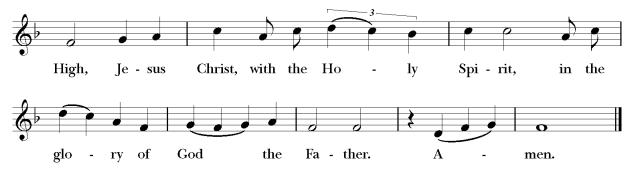
Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

All: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Celebrant: 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





Section: Canticles Title: Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Copyright: Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(This week's Psalm is from the St. Helena Psalter, and the other readings come from the NRSV.)

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Together, let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING (*Please be seated.*)

Isaiah 43:1-7

Reader 1: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says our God, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth--

everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Reader 1: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 29

Ascribe to God, you heavenly beings, ascribe to God glory and strength.

Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name; worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of God is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; God is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of God is a powerful voice; the voice of God is a voice of splendor.

The voice of God breaks the cedar trees; God breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

God makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of God splits the flames of fire; the voice of God shakes the wilderness; God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Holy One, all are crying, "Glory!"

God sits enthroned above the flood, enthroned for evermore.

God shall give strength to the people;
God shall give the people the blessing of peace.

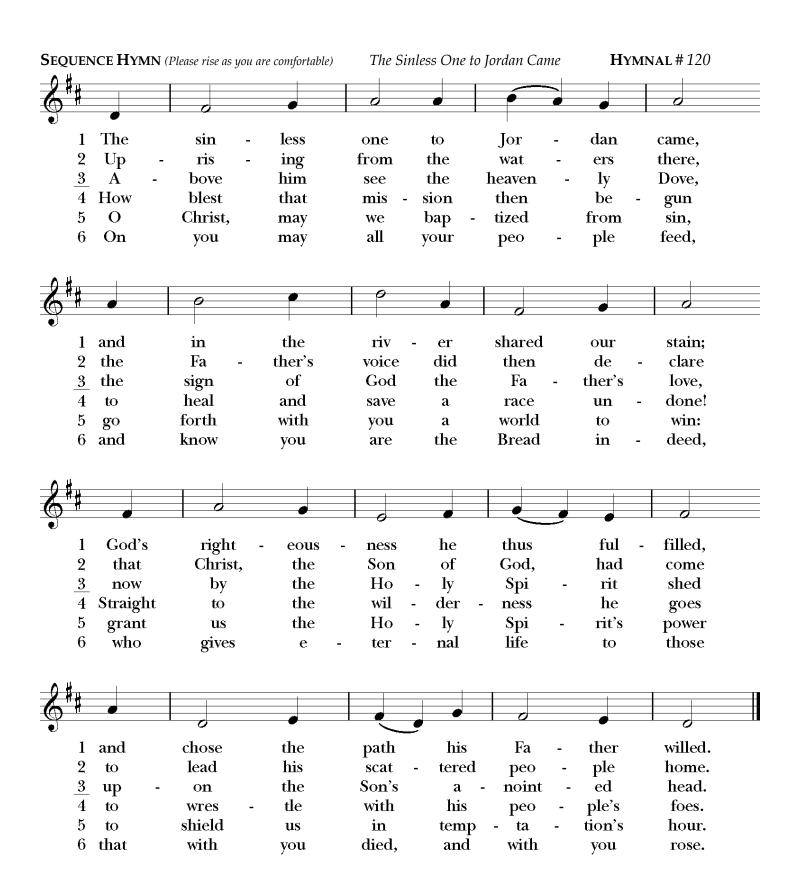
THE SECOND READING Acts 8:14-17

Reader 2: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

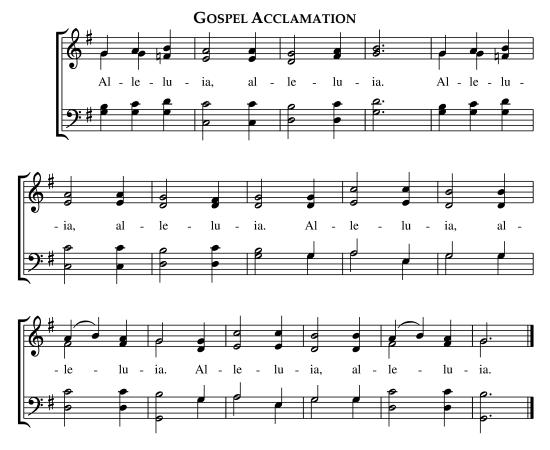
When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader 2: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.



Section: Epiphany Title: The sinless one to Jordan came Meter: LM Words: G. B. Timms (b. 1910), alt. Music: *Solemnis haec festivitas*, melody from *Graduale*, 1685; harm. Arthur Hutchings (b. 1906) Copyright: Words: From English Praise. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.



Setting: South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana © Gobingca Mxadana. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. This one will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. A winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Child, my Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Priest-in-Charge

STATEMENT OF FAITH

LEM: Please rise as you are comfortable as we proclaim our Statement of Faith.

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we put our trust in God; and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace; to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness; to live in the freedom of forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit of love. And in the company of the faithful we will be the church, a community of flawed and forgiving disciples, for the glory of God alone.

Amen.

Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, © 2001, The Iona Community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LEM: In peace, we pray to you, O God.

Silence

LEM: For all people in their daily life and work;

All: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

LEM: For this community, the nation, and the world;

All: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

LEM: For the just and proper use of your creation;

All: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

LEM: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

LEM: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

LEM: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Julia, our Diocesan Bishop; for all bishops and other ministers; and for the following churches of the Boston Harbor Deanery: St. John & St. James Church, Roxbury, (Boston), Ecclesia Ministries and *common cathedral*, Boston; and for Hospitality Homes, The Diocesan Staff, and The Massachusetts Council of Churches.

All: For all who serve God in God's Church.

LEM: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; and especially for Deb, Susan and Galen Boyer, Sarah Conger, the Katz family, David and Susanna Lee, Mary Lou and Charlie Montgomery, David Murphy, Gary Koger, David Waters, David Tabors, Barry Koger, Joyce Conolly, Matt Beavin, Jim Nolan, Gordon Ledgard, our friends in the NewCity Church, the Global Village Children's Project, and the Centre Street Food Pantry. Either silently or aloud, for whom and what else do we pray today? (The People may add their own petitions.)

LEM: Hear us, O God;

All: For your mercy is great.

LEM: We thank you, O God, for all the blessings of this life. Either silently or aloud, for whom and what do we give thanks today?

(The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

LEM: We will exalt you, O God;

All: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

LEM: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kindom. We pray especially for the deceased members of the Pierron and Wolff families, in whose memory today's altar flowers are given. Either silently or aloud, who else do we name and remember this day? (The People may add their own names.)

LEM: O God, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All: Who put their trust in you.

PRAYER FOR THE SOCIAL ORDER (BCP P. 823)

LEM: Together let us pray.

All: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Celebrant offers a collect.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

Silence

All: O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed,

our arrogance, and our fear. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not truly loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry, we are humbled, and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole. Forgive us and renew us now.

Celebrant: Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive your every sin through our Savior Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of God be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Choir

THE DOXOLOGY (*Please rise as you are comfortable*)

Hymnal #380

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above all life and death Creator, Christ, and Holy Breath. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

Celebrant: God be with you.
All: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to God.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

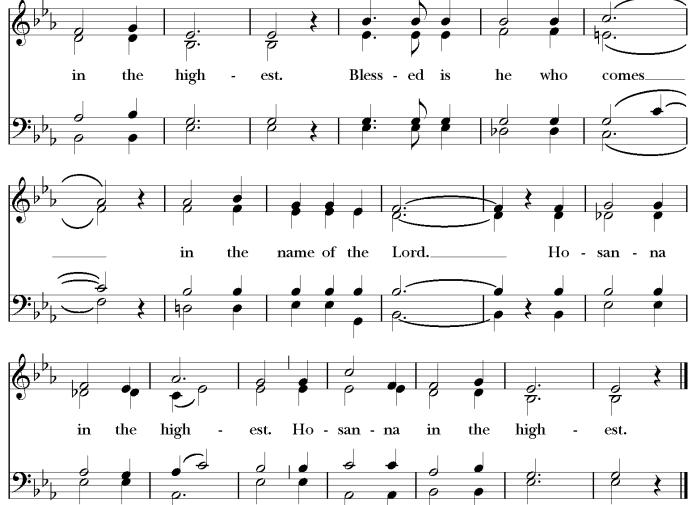
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

(The celebrant inserts a preface.)

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





Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus Music: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright: © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died Christ has risen Christ will come again.

Celebrant:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in Christ's sacrifice, through whom may we all be acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (We invite you to say whatever version of the Lord's Prayer is most meaningful for you.)

Celebrant: As Jesus taught us, we now pray:

All:

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kindom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kindom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: We who are many are one body;
All: For we all share in the one bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM



Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei* Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright: Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant: These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and loved, died, and rose again for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

You are welcome at this Table, exactly as you are, because of who you are.

If you feel called to the table, please come forward to receive Communion.

At this time, the Parish of St. Paul offers a common cup as well as individual cups for receiving the consecrated wine. Please either take an individual cup (found on a front pew on the right as you approach the altar for communion) or indicate to the Lay Eucharistic Minister that you would like to receive from the common cup. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please know that receiving the consecrated bread alone constitutes a full Communion.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire a blessing.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(This prayer of Spiritual Communion is said privately and is intended for individuals participating remotely, and for individuals who may not wish to receive Communion or a blessing.)

In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of bread and wine, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.



Section: Baptism and Conversion Title: Wade in the Water Words: Traditional Music: Negro Spirutual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals* Copyright: Arr. © 1992 Carl Haywood.

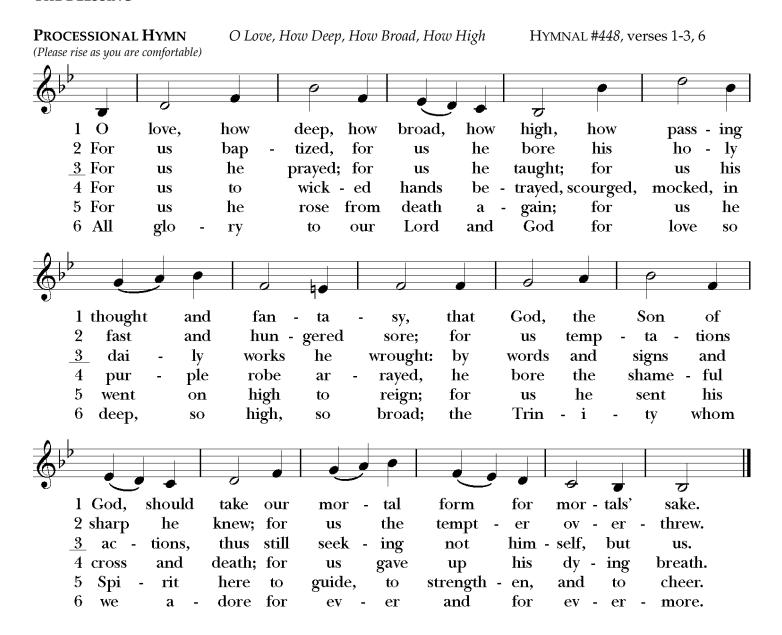
POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER (Please rise as you are comfortable)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of compassion. You have united us with Christ, and you have made us one with all peoples and creatures in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may give birth to your love in the world, and that we may continue to make our home in your life. Amen.

THE BLESSING



Section: Jesus Christ our Lord Title: O love, how deep, how broad, how high Meter: LM Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: Deus tuorum militum, from Antiphoner, 1753; adapt. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt.; harm. after Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve God and God's

people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Musicians



PARISH NOTICES

Parish Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 26, 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place on Sunday, January 26, immediately after church, with a parish lunch to follow. (Sunday, February 2 will be the back-up date in case of snow.) Annual Meeting booklets will be available beginning January 19.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers needed

The ministry of Lay Eucharistic Minister is an essential ministry in the sacramental life of our parish. If you find yourself curious about or drawn to serving as a LEM, please be in contact with Rev. Meghan.

Rental Committee

The Vestry seeks volunteers from the parish who would be interested in serving on a rental committee to explore how much and how often the parish might consider renting the building and grounds, rental fees, renter alignment with parish mission, overall space use, etc. If you would like to serve on such a committee, please let Rev. Meghan know.

Can Redemption Volunteers

Volunteers sought to assist with can redemption for the Plenty ministry. Please connect with Christopher Gruener if you can assist.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Vestry!

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney Co-Warden: Kim Koger, mkskoger5@gmail.com

Co-Warden: David Montgomery, dmontgomery@montlegal.com

Treasurer: Richard Pearce, Richard@northinfo.com Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com Margaret Hummel, margarethummel@verizon.net

Dustin Ledgard, ledgarddustin@gmail.com