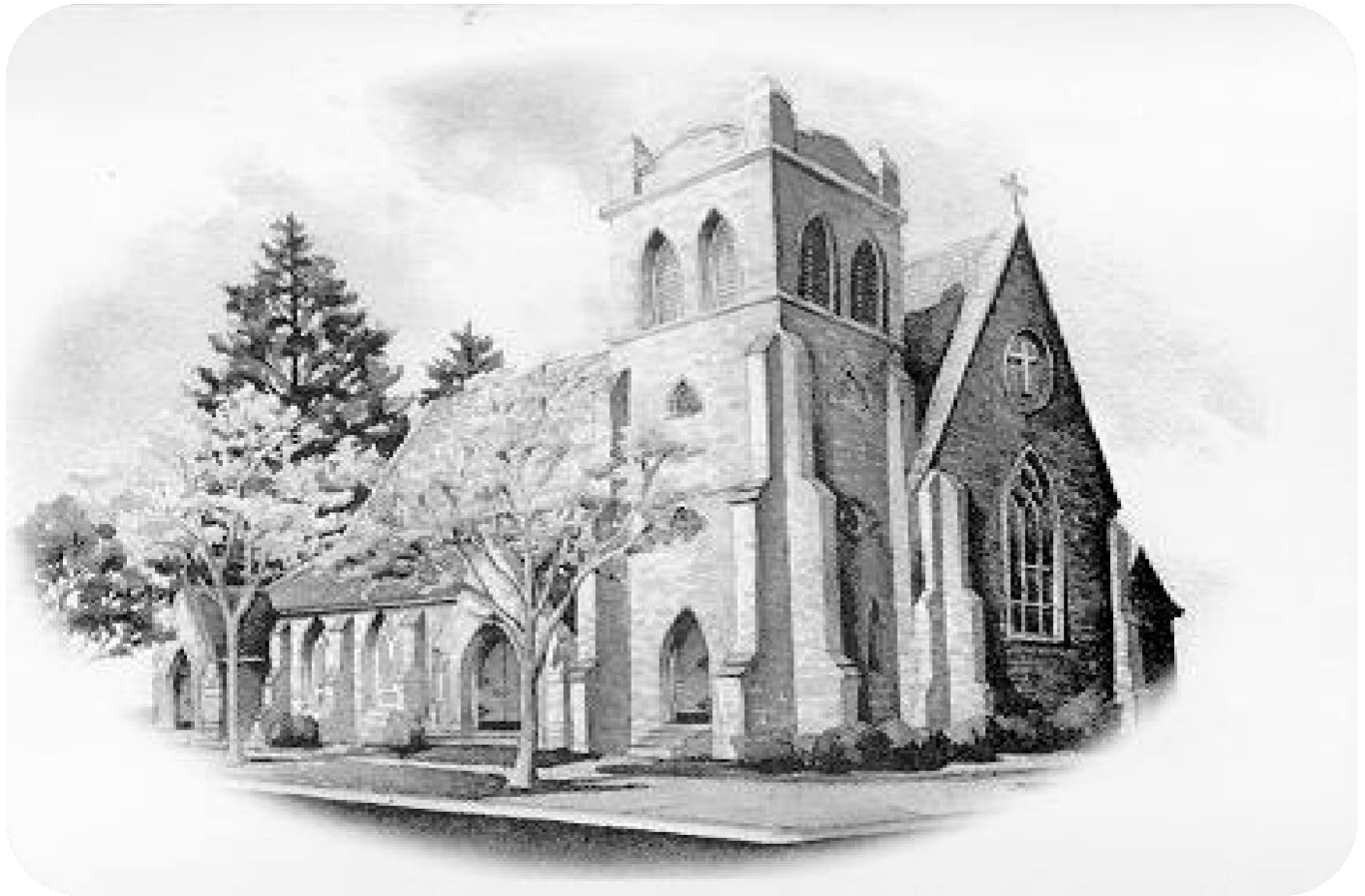


CHRIST CHURCH

NEWTON, NEW JERSEY



The Episcopal Church in the Heart of Sussex County

Founded 1769

Chartered August 15, 1774

The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023

Prelude: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

arr. Wayne Wold

All who are able stand as the Choir and Clergy enter in silence while the bell is tolled 33 times for the life of Jesus.

Priest: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

℣ What is sin?

℟ *Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation.*

℣ How does sin have power over us?

℟ *Sin has power over us because we lose our liberty when our relationship with God is distorted.*

℣ What is redemption?

℟ *Redemption is the act of God which sets us free from the power of evil, sin, and death.*

℣ How did God prepare us for redemption?

℟ *God sent the prophets to call us back to himself, to show us our need for redemption, and to announce the coming of the Messiah.*

℣ What is meant by the Messiah?

℟ *The Messiah is one sent by God to free us from the power of sin, so that with the help of God we may live in harmony with God, within ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.*

℣ Who do we believe is the Messiah?

℟ The Messiah, or Christ, is Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God.

Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But I confess our sins. God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Therefore, let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor, *devoutly kneeling*

Silence may be kept

Celebrant and People:

**Almighty and most merciful father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,**

we have followed too much the devices and desires of our
 own hearts,
 we have offended against thy holy laws,
 we have left undone those things which we ought to
 have done,
 and we have done those things which we ought not to
 have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
 spare thou those who confess their faults,
 restore thou those who are penitent,
 according to thy promises declared unto mankind
 in Christ Jesus our Lord;
 and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
 that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
 to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Priest:

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and
 remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of
 life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Kyrie eleison

Healey Willan

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. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Psalter Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

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.

The Epistle Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn 663 (vs. 1-4): *The Lord my God my shepherd is*

Crimond

The Holy Gospel John 9:1-41

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called

Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ*

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, *Interim Rector*

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

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishop for this gathering; and for all
ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the
oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper
knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Celebrant:

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask:

Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in
our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Anthem: *All we, like sheep, have gone astray* [from MESSIAH]

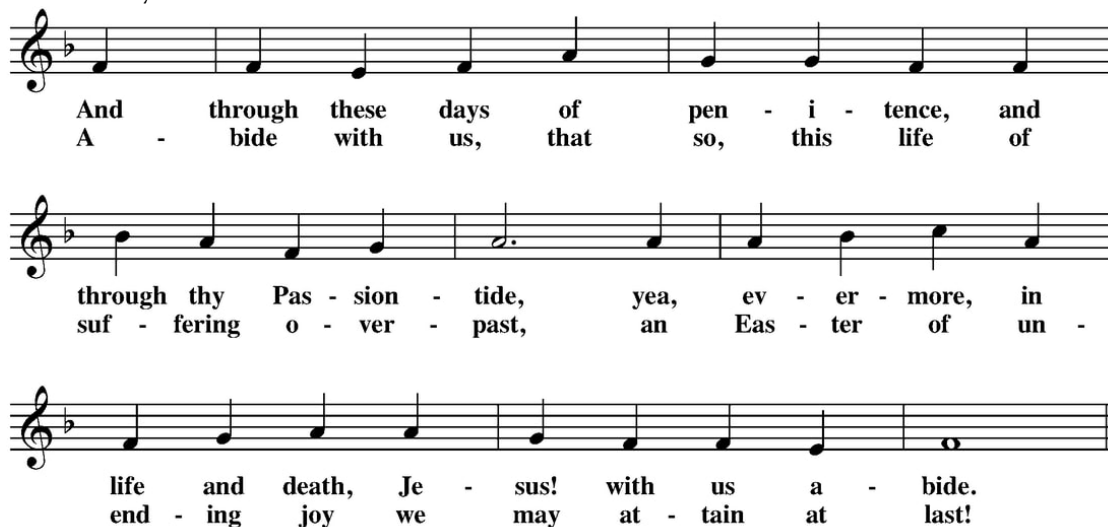
G. F. Handel

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.

And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

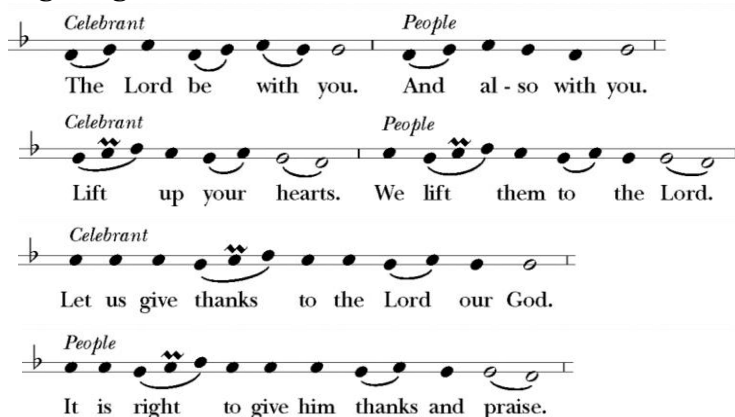
- Isaiah 53:6

Presentation Hymn St. Flavian



And through these days of pen - i - tence, and
A - bide with us, that so, this life of
through thy Pas - sion - tide, yea, ev - er - more, in
suf - fering o - ver - past, an Eas - ter of un -
life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
end - ing joy, we may at - tain at last!

The Great Thanksgiving



Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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 every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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 and Benedictus

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.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

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."

Celebrant
 There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:
Celebrant and People
 Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

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 (*The three-fold Agnus Dei: Men, then women, then all*)

Men

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

Women

on us. O Lamb of God, that

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

All

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

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Communion: *A Celtic Set for Lent* (Rockingham/Slane)

Thomas Keesecker

Air: *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd...*

Come unto Him, all ye that labour [from MESSIAH]

G. F. Handel

Sue Tummillo & Jessica Caruso, sopranos

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

- Isaiah 40:11

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

- Matthew 11:28-29

Post Communion Prayer

The Celebrant and People together

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 490: *I want to walk as a child of the light*

Houston

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

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CHRIST CHURCH NOTES:

Lector: Walter Thies
L.E.M.: Curt Wilson
Ushers: George & Barbara Wink

We ask your prayers...

For those who are ill: Alex, Amy, Susy, Dan, Susanna, Valarie, Rick Jr., Joyce, Tom, Adriana, David, Greg, Carolyn, Olivia, Maura, Chris, Patsy, Gizelle, Ed, Jack, Siv, Jane, Valarie, Rick Jr., Maura and Amanda.

For those serving in the armed forces: Parker and Nicholas. **For those with child:** Alyssa.

We rejoice with... Jessica Carusso and all who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Timothy Mulder
Karrie Miller
Luz Quintero
Joseph Mello
Diana Greene
Deborah Mello
Sue Mittelstadt
Alex Zander
Beth Batastini, BSN, RN-BC

Interim Rector
Parish Administrator
Sexton
Director of Music / Choirmaster
Organist
Youth Choir
Children's Ministries
Altar Guild
Faith Community Nurse

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