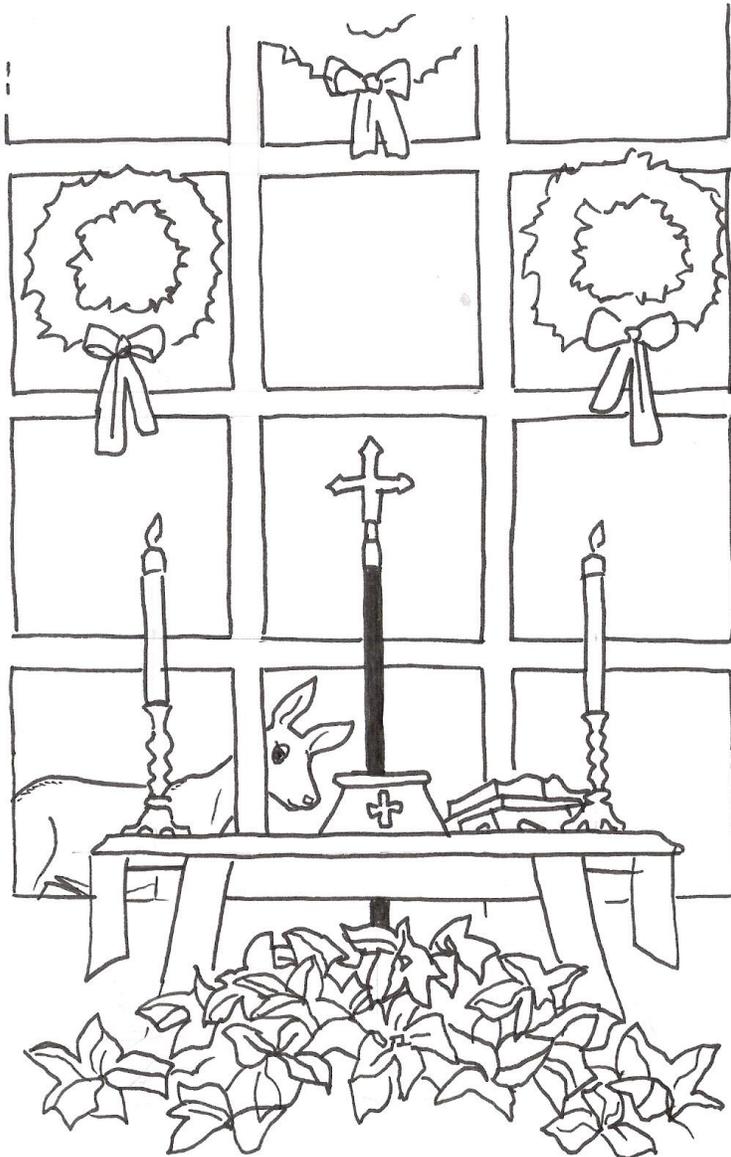




ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA



THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
DECEMBER 24, 2020
5:00 P.M.

The Eve of the Feast of the Nativity, Year B

December 24, 2020 – 5:00pm – Liturgy with Spiritual Communion, Rite II

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

(The peoples' responses are in bold)

Sung in unison

OPENING, HYMN 83 (verses 1 & 3): O come, all ye faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP Page 355

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

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

Presider 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.**

Sung in unison

SONG OF PRAISE, HYMN 96 (verses 1 & 2): Angels we have heard on high

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP Page 213

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 62:6-12

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the Lord,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The Lord has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,

‘See, your salvation comes;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.’
 They shall be called, ‘The Holy People,
 The Redeemed of the Lord’;
 and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out,
 A City Not Forsaken.’

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Sung in unison

SEQUENCE, HYMN 101 (verses 1 & 2): Away in a manger, no crib for his bed



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional carol Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

[Will BEGIN the Christmas Story Video compilation made by the children.]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,* the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,* praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

[Will END the Christmas Story Video compilation made by the children.]

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader The angel choir has proclaimed your glory, we praise your name and the gift of your presence with a joyful noise.

Reader We stand among the great cloud of witnesses who have come before and those lives yet untold who will witness here after, help the church to receive your Son in awe and wonder, and watch over the communities who proclaim your glory by their lives and their worship.

People **May our lives reflect the joy of your good news.**

Reader We pray for our leaders, especially the men and women newly elected and re-elected to office, those who make laws, those who administer the laws, and those who judge; may their decisions, actions, and judgements reflect wisdom, justice, and peace.

People **May our lives reflect the peace of your good news.**

Reader With your people throughout the world, we rejoice at your presence with creation, and we pray for the courage and energy to walk with those who are oppressed, hungry, alone, and living in fear.

People **May our lives reflect the generosity of your good news.**

Reader We pray for those who live and work beside us; who hurry to our side when we are in crisis; who live among us in pain from illness, broken relationships, and loneliness; who are laboring in birth, and who are dying: we ask for your healing, wholeness, restoration, and care. Remembering this night: [*Prayer List*]

People **May our prayers reflect the healing power of your good news.**

Reader We commend to you those who have died and entered more fully into your glory.

People **May our lives reflect the hope of your good news.**

Presider Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP Page 364

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Presider 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

BCP Page 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

A **spiritual communion** is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

OFFERTORY (The communion is also by definition an offering of the gifts to God.)

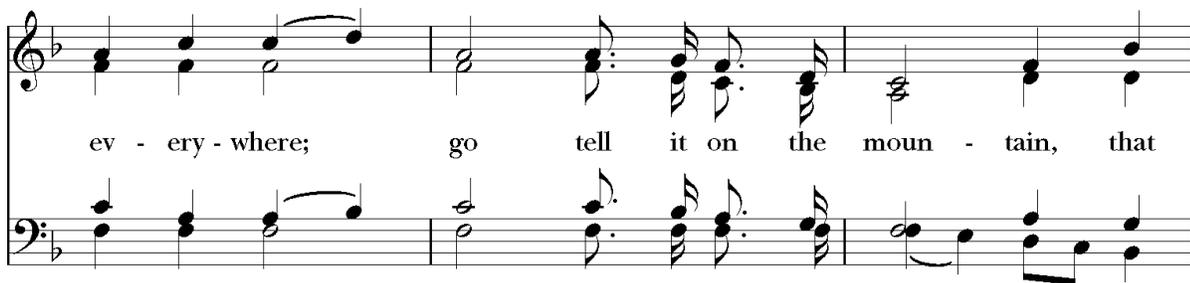
Sung in unison

OFFERTORY, HYMN 99 (verses 1 & 2): Go tell it on the mountain

Refrain



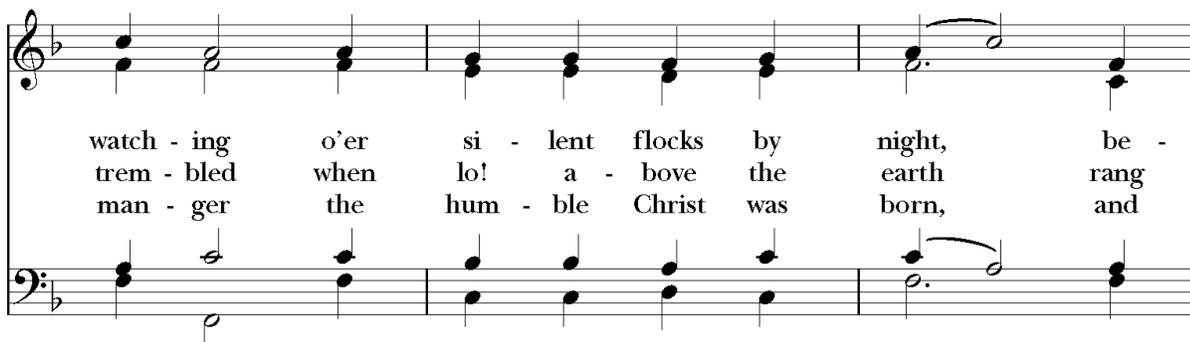
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and



ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that



Je - sus Christ is born! 1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly



watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain



hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho-ly light.
 out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sa-vior's birth.
 God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901) Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935) Copyright ©1984, Horace Clarence Boyer. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Prayer B)

BCP Page 367

Presider The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

Celebrant and the People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider 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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Francis of Assisi, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BCP Page 364

Presider 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP Page 364

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

COMMUNION INVITATION

BCP Page 364

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

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION, (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Presider Let us pray.

**My Jesus,
I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come,
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you;
never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

Presider Let us pray.

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.

Sung in unison

POST-COMMUNION, HYMN 111 (verses 1 & 3): Silent night, holy night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. born! birth. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
 Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Presider May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

Presider May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

Presider May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

Presider And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Sung in unison

CLOSING, HYMN 87 (verses 1, 2, 3): Hark! the herald angels sing

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily composed of chords and simple eighth-note lines.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

We invite the congregation to unmute yourselves so that everyone might proclaim the dismissal

DISMISSAL

BCP Page 366

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

All musical selections reprinted with the permission of *ritesong*. All rights reserved. Used with permission. All scripture passages are taken from the *Good News Translation* (Today's English Version, Second Edition). Copyright © 1992 American Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



2020

*Christmas Flower & Music
Thanksgivings and Memorials*

The Christmas poinsettias and greens and special music were lovingly donated by and for the following:

Odiorne Beebe

*In thanksgiving for Morning and Evening Prayer Services
and Bible Study*

Catherine Mathews

In thanksgiving for St. Francis Church

Jennifer & Ray Murphy

*In thanksgiving for St. Francis, Zoom, and the continuing
ability to say "Hello" to our Franciscan friends every week*

Molly & Joe Reynolds

In memory of my siblings, Neil and Barbara

Amber & Matt Robinson

In thanksgiving for the St. Francis Choir

Ginger Roll

In memory of Bob Roll



The mission of St. Francis Church is to follow Jesus Christ, to provide a spiritual home for worship and Christian growth, to encourage love and fellowship within the parish family, to promote harmony with God's creation in the spirit of St. Francis, and to serve the needs of the greater community."

St. Francis Episcopal Church

9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, Virginia 22066
Office Telephone: (703) 759-2082 FAX: (703) 759-0874

Website: www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Church Members please create your account and log in.

Pastoral Emergency: (703) 759-2082 x102

St. Francis Crèche Preschool Telephone: (703) 759-2522

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SERVICE & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULES

Friday, December 25

11:00 am Spiritual Communion, Rite II—with Music

Holy Days:

Contact the church office for the schedule

CLERGY AND STAFF:

The Rev. David Lucey, Rector - rector@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Mr. Timothy Rutherford; Seminarian - seminarian@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Ms. Lynn Fallon, Parish Administrator - admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Mr. Patrick Killoran, Communications & Technical Director

- patkilloran@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Mr. Larry Vote, Music Director - levote@smcm.edu

Ms. Patricia Howell, Organist - patriciahowell67@gmail.com

Ms. Cristi Leslie, Preschool Director - creche@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

2020 VESTRY MEMBERS:

Jeffrey Wootton, Senior Warden

Betty Boutros

Gary Pan

Denny Sisson, Junior Warden

Dwight Chewning

Karen Shindhelm

Molly Reynolds, Treasurer

Brice Eldridge

Jennifer Murphy, Registrar