



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



### Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Trinity's Pastors and Church Staff by Lani Ludian.

# SERVING TODAY

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Presiding Minister and Preaching    | Jim Parham  |
| Assisting Minister                  | Richard Moose   |
| Pianist and Choir Director          | Rick Smith  |
| Lector                              | Penny Bostain   |
| Prayers                             | Mary Cannon-Spencer   |
| Cantor                              | Mim Vander-Linden   |
| Acolyte                             | Adaline McCormack   |
| Children's Worship Activity Leaders | Julie Brightwell<br>Amanda Cook                                       |
| Praying for Possibilities           | David Nichols   |
| Greeters                            | Julie Brightwell<br>Lisa Rehm<br>Mary Beth Ridenhour                  |
| Ushers                              | Teresa Harrington<br>Pattimarie Janssen<br>Lani Ludian<br>David Potts |
| Fellowship Hosts                    | Roger Brown and David Foster  |
| Video                               | Henry Wilcox  |
| Audio                               | Gregg Alley   |

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

*Please stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

*Refrain*

***Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.***

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain***

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire if nations, you have seen his natal star. *Refrain***

**All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *Refrain***

#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain*

***Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in GOD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for GOD has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
and has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Sovereign GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until its vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and its salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of GOD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of GOD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.*Psalm  
Refrain

The splen - dor of the LORD is o - ver earth and heav'n.

Psalm  
Tone

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD! from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
- <sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,
- <sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**
- <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD! from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- <sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- <sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- <sup>10</sup>**wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;**
- <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- <sup>12</sup>**young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together. R**
- <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful  
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! R**

A reading from Galatians.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent God's Only-Begotten, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of the Only-Begotten into our hearts, crying, "Abba!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Pastor Parham

*Please stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
*(verse 1)*

#270

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

*Refrain*

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***



The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of God, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen God’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of God, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

SERMON

Pastor Parham

*Please stand as able*

**What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

#### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. We pray today especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.  
**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

MEAL

ANTHEM

*O Holy Night*  
by Adolphe Adam

Mim Vander-Linden

*Please stand as able.*

OFFERING HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
(verses 2 and 3)

#270

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

*Refrain*

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

Let us pray. God of abundance,  
**receive and bless these gifts we have offered.**  
**Join our hearts with the song of the angels,**  
**and gather us at your table of celebration.**  
**Strengthen us to share with all the world**  
**the abundance of your grace upon grace,**  
**poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**  
**Amen.**

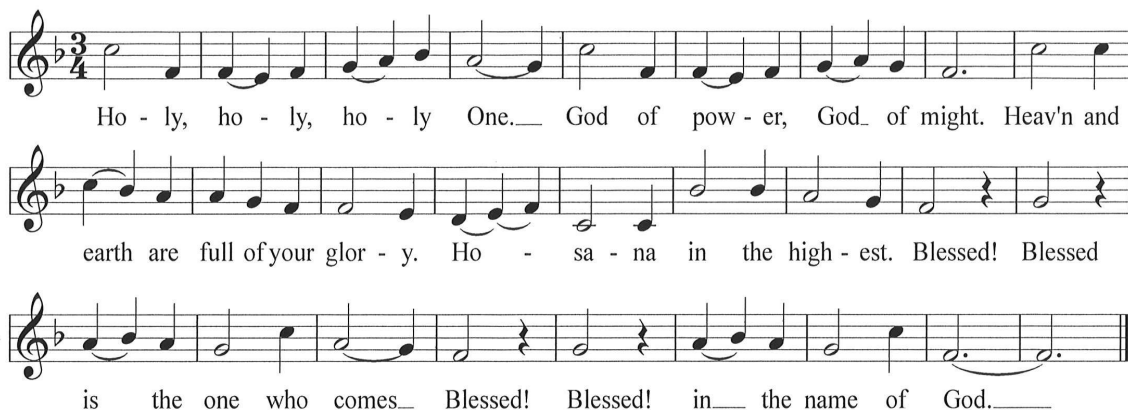
### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God." The score ends with a double bar line.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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 INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

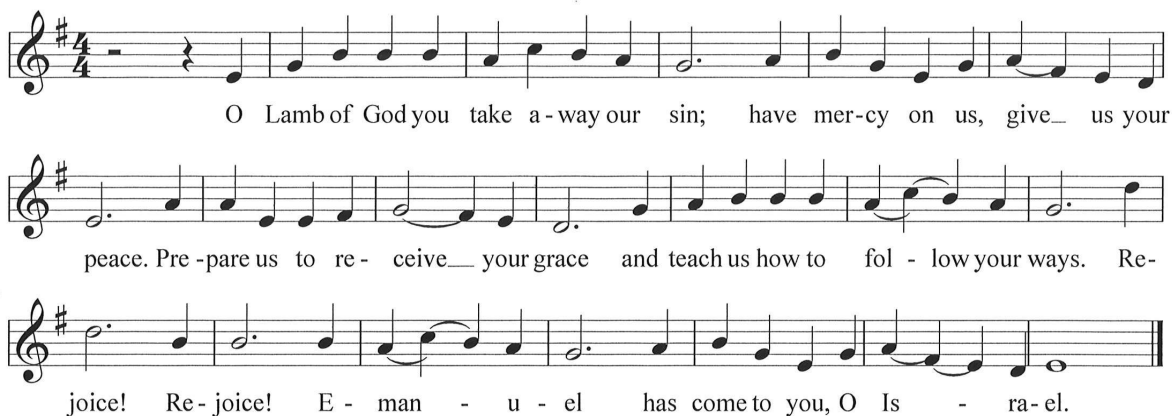
*Please be seated*

## COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine. Gluten free wafers are available.*

*At the direction of the ushers worshipers are invited to come to the Altar - kneeling as able to receive a wafer and a small cup of wine.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your  
peace. Pre- pare us to re- ceive your grace and teach us how to fol- low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re- joice! E- man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

*Gesù Bambino*  
by Pietro A. Yan

Mim Vander Linden

*Love Has Come*

#292

**Love has come--a light in the darkness! Loves shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,  
and ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*

# 272

**Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow’r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.**

**This flow’r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fill the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev’ry load.**

**O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.**



*Please stand as able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

#### BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,  
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth  
receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him  
room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their  
songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns  
infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
nations prove the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn  
for refreshments and fellowship .*

*Love Has Come*

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## CHURCH STAFF

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James C. Parham, III  
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Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher  
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

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Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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