



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 4, 2024 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



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 the church staff by Carol Elliott.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Duke Barsody
Prayers	Penny Bostain
Communion Assistant	Kellie Fontecchio
Cantors	Bob and Sheryl Schirmer
Acolytes	Cesa Thomas-Harewood Lexi Thomas-Harewood
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Amanda Cook Anne Fagala Anne Harmon
Praying for Possibilities	Joshua Rhodes
Greeters	Mark Allen Chad Brightwell Julie Brightwell Anne Harmon Deirdre Hixson Lisa Rehm
Ushers	Danny Fagala Calvin Harmon David Potts Franklin Sease
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit

dwelling in each of us.

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

Amen.

**Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us,
by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.**

**See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and
women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.**

**Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the
world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.**

**Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the
Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.**

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.

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior,
you have won our hearts to serve you only! Lowly,
holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich
in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with
heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let your
mercy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.**

**Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy
be all with music crowned, our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes, with us all the way— today, tomorrow,
ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out!
Ring Out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the Story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of hope, in this messy, marvelous world, there are times when we feel lost and alone, afraid and anxious...times when there is so much confusion, so much unknown, so many unanswered questions that we feel that we have been exiled to a foreign land. Plant a seed of hope deep within our hearts. Nurture and protect that seed so that hope will endure, so that hope will help us mount up with wings like eagles, so that hope will help us to run and not be weary. May hope guide us and strengthen us to live in service to you and to one another, through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

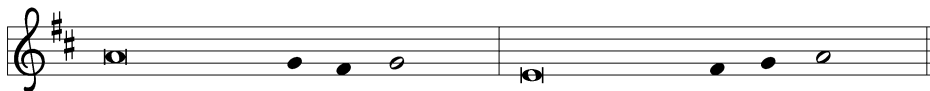
Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from Isaiah.

- ²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²²It is God who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when God blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?
The same One who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name.
Through God's great strength, and mighty power, not one is missing.
- ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from GOD, and my cause is disregarded by my God"?
- ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Our God is the everlasting GOD, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
who does not faint or grow weary; whose understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
- ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
- ³¹but those who wait for GOD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²**The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names. R**

⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,

⁸**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- | on the mountains. R**

⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c}Hallelujah! **R**

A reading from first Corinthians.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Always Hope

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

#512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

The Promise of Home and Hope

Please stand as able

**I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Bless the groundhog who just recently bore the weight of human superstition and weather interest as you also bless all animals who are in hibernation and beginning to wake from their slumber. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. Empower GOAL, Greenville's justice ministry, to boldly ask elected leaders to make changes for the good of all, not just for a privileged few. Grant your people patience for this election season as you also strengthen the minds of officials working to guarantee elections are fair and honest. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. Help us to listen deeply to the stories of the queer community and all who have been harmed by religion and the church so that we may continue to grow into a place of safety and peace for all people. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who walks alongside us as we serve the gospel, be with this congregation as we yet again do the righteous and joyful work of raising up leaders for your church. Strengthen Patrick's Christian witness and enliven his gifts for ministry as he begins his ministry as Pastoral Intern with this congregation. Guide Pastor Crowell as she teaches and mentors, the internship committee as they accompany, and this entire congregation as each play a unique role in the formation of all who minister within this community of faith. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who breaths the breath of life into each and every human, we give you thanks today for the little life you are readying for the Hager family. Hold baby Javier in the safety of your womb as Emily cares for him within the safety of hers. Help both Emily and Angie to know you are creating them to be mothers who will care for their son in ways no one else ever could. As this congregation celebrates a baby shower for this family, strengthen us to be the community all parents and children need as they seek ways to build family within Christian community. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please be seated

A Blessing for the beginning of Patrick's Pastoral Internship

We invite Patrick to come and stand with me at the baptismal font and for Angie Hager, Tori Hilbourne, Richard Moose (chair), Merry Mulcahy, and Pat O'Neill, members of the Internship Committee, to join us as we stand together on holy ground at the beginning of this 18-month internship.

In June of 2020, Patrick and his then partner/now husband Jonathan, were looking for a church. The Holy Spirit intervened and the two of them found us online during our first ever Pride Service. That connection was the beginning of a relationship that has been nurtured and strengthened and blessed and affirmed over these past years. While Patrick will continue serving as Trinity's Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator, he is beginning a new role in our life together, a pastoral role in these months of internship.

The work of internship is communal, cooperative, collaborative. Each of us has a role and a responsibility to nurture the gift of faith in you Patrick...to support and encourage, to fan the flame of the Holy Spirit that resides in you, to work together with you to strengthen your God-given gifts for pastoral ministry.

Though there are tools that will be offered, carefully crafted grids for assessment and measurement, guidance for feedback and evaluation, do not be deceived: our common task and mission is not technical.

Think guideposts, not guidelines. Think cairns, not cautions.
This work is not science. This work is art...holy art.

If we do it right, it will be messy. It will be experimental. It will contain surprises and hidden messages, disappointments, hurt feelings, but also triumph, also joy.

If we do it right, there will be more questions than answers; more tasks, than time; more laughter, than silence.

If we do it right, the experience will be far more than we can imagine right now. It will take on shape that can only emerge through the gathering of our gifts and graces for ministry, one upon one upon another, sums greater than the parts.

Our attention and appreciation, our building up and breaking down, our care for the process more than the product, will coax that sacred energy that reminds us that ours is a covenantal promise we make to one another over and over again, each day anew.

My siblings in Christ, will you support and pray for Patrick, for this Internship Committee, for me as his mentor and supervisor, for our colleagues who will partner along the way, for this faith community with the intent of supporting Patrick as he is formed for pastoral ministry?

If so answer...

We will and we ask for God's help and guidance.

Please stand as able.

Let us pray.

Patrick kneels and members of the Internship Committee, staff, and his family and chosen family come forward to lay on hands.

God of mercy and grace, you have opened the eyes of faith for this congregation to see and embrace a vision and mission of diversity, inclusion, radical welcome, hospitality, and justice for all the beloved of God. Kindle in Patrick the gift of the Holy Spirit. Use him in this place to proclaim the inclusive gospel of love, to create sacred spaces of belonging, to care for those who are hurting or grieving, to teach the sacred truths, to nurture and sustain relationships among us all. Strengthen and sustain Patrick, Jonathan, and Grayson as we all learn and grow together. Remind us throughout this intentional time of formation that we all stand on holy ground, that the work we do together will help usher in God's kin-dom of justice and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

MEAL

ANTHEM

They Shall Soar Like Eagles

Adult Choir

by Laura Manzo

Amanda Mast, flute

Text based on Isaiah 40:29-31

They shall soar like eagles; rise up and soar like eagles.

They who wait upon the Lord shall not be weary.

They shall never stumble, but gain new strength and power.

They who wait upon the Lord.

Those who are weary and burdened with sorrow

need not despair, there is hope for tomorrow.

God will be there each time you call.

They shall soar like eagles; rise up and soar like eagles.

They who wait upon the Lord shall not be weary.

They shall never stumble, but gain new strength and power.

They who wait upon the Lord.

Please stand as able.

**Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One,
**for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son,
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into the wine to receive Communion by intinction.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
setting by David Cherwien
Jenna and Amanda Mast, clarinet and flute

Healer of Our Every Ill

#612

Refrain

***Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.***

***You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your
peace and gladness; Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. Refrain***

***In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is
still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love. Refrain***

***Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister,
ev'ry brother; Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. Refrain***

***You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your
way of healing; Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. Refrain***

How good it is to sing God's praises, for God is gracious and worthy to be praised.
How good it is to sing God's praises, to sing with joy and thanksgiving to God.

Who sends the rain for the earth and makes the grass and the flowers grow.
Who sends the gentle breezes and makes the water flow.

How good it is to sing God's praises, for God is gracious and worthy to be praised.
How good it is to sing God's praises, to sing with joy and thanksgiving to God.

For God will heal the brokenhearted and will bind up their wounds.
The Lord lifts up the heavy laden and will give them strength.

How good it is to sing God's praises, for God is gracious and worthy to be praised.
How good it is to sing God's praises, to sing with joy, to sing with joy!

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#843

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**

**Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in the shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**

Refrain

***And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath on dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.***

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no
fear; under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain***

**You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. *Refrain***

**For to the angels God's given a command to
guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will
bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

Final Refrain

***And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath on dawn,
make you shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.
And hold, hold you in the palm of his hand.***

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

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✚ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

#671

Refrain

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

**Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the
darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.**

Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display
your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.**

Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Trust in God.

Lean into the promise that God has a beautiful future filled with hope in store for you.

Live into that hope.

Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather in the back corner of the Gym
for refreshments and to celebrate Angie and Emily Hager as
they await the birth of their son.*

Rise, Shine, You People!
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CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
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James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator
Pastoral Intern

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

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