

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:15 A.M.

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## **WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

### **A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP**

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

### **TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING**

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the courtyard. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!

### **ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN**

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2024 pledge cards! To date, 93 members have pledged for a total of \$407,109. Our 2024 goal is \$425,000. If you haven't submitted your card yet, please do so as soon as possible so the vestry can move forward with 2024 plans! Thank YOU for sharing your ABUNDANCE!

## THE WORD OF GOD

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share, please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.*

**PRELUDE**                      *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*                      Anthony Giamanco

**OPENING HYMN**                      *I love thy kingdom, Lord*                      **HYMN 524**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Reader 1:*              When God’s people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

*Reader 2:*              We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

*People:*              *We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God’s people.*

*Reader 1:*              We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.*

**OPENING ACCLAMATION** (*please remain standing as you are able*)

**BCP 355**

*Officiant*      Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People*          *His mercy endures for ever.*

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**BCP 355**

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.*

**TRISAGION**

**HYMNAL S-100**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          *And also with you.*  
*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**THE FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (*please be seated*)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion--to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in

my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he 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. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

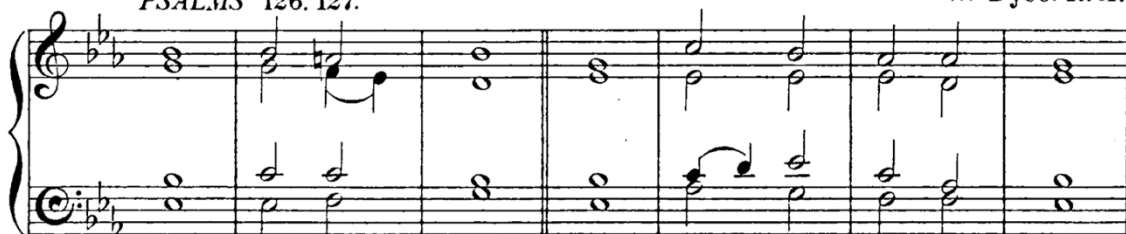
*People*

*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 126** (*chant led by choir*)

PSALMS 126. 127.

W. Dyce. R. A.



- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**THE EPISTLE:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

**GRADUAL HYMN**                    *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*                    **HYMN 324**  
*Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3 & 4 after the Gospel Reading*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:** John 1:6-8, 19-28 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

*Celebrant*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*            *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*People*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
                          *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**SERMON**

THE REV. STACEY CATIGANO

**THE NICENE CREED** (*please rise in body or spirit*)

**BCP 358**

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. (*pause*)  
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.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (*please kneel as you are able*)

In this season of waiting, let us pray together in thanksgiving as we gather in holy patience, saying, “God, be with us.”

In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. John’s, Lancaster, and The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. For the church and all its people, the gathering of those called to wait in anticipation of your revelation, that we may be alert so when the time comes for us to behold you among us, we see you and receive you with prayers and praises of gratitude and thanksgiving, we pray:

*God, be with us.*

For all the nations of the world and those who bear the authority of leadership, especially Joe, our President; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces; that the powers of this world may entrust our futures not to their own understanding, but to your ever unfolding wisdom, charity, and generosity. We pray for all your children caught in war and violence and pray for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and throughout the world.

*God, be with us.*

For the whole world, that in this season of hearing proclamations of the power of God, we would begin to see the song of Mary taking on flesh in our world, calling us to give of ourselves out of our spirit of gratitude, we pray: *God, be with us.*

We pray for our friends at home, especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Carole Humphrey, Darlene Bentley, and Peggy Zuke. For our neighbors and our communities, that our hearts may be sensitive to the needs of the people in our midst and overcome with gratitude for them, so that we, as one people bound to each other, may wait together for the unfolding kingdom of God, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For those we love and care for, especially Pat Pankey, Jeannie Zeller, Kent Strickler Nancy Strasburg, Justin & Lisa, Ella & Colleen, Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Kevin, Judy Modene, Angie Stamm, Andrew Gilpin, Jesse Rutledge, Ann Marie, Cheryl & Rhoda, Lynn Hayford, Erin Potts, Dave, Colleen Murphy, Joan Inshetski, Grant Hansel, Maria Sauder, and JoAnn Trenary. For all human suffering of all kinds and conditions, that we may be comforted by the presence of a God who took on flesh to know our suffering, to bear our suffering, and to give us - even in our suffering - a grace that calls us to give thanks, we pray: *God, be with us.*



For all who have died, those who have removed the veil and seen you face to face, that we may be inspired by the lives they lived on this earth, as they are now reminders that you will call us into a heavenly home, where our praises and our thanksgivings are brought into your nearer presence, we pray: *God, be with us.*

For the ways in which you are waiting with us, sitting beside us as we celebrate the joys of this life, giving thanks especially for those joys we now name, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts...(silence is kept) In our gratitude, we pray: *God, be with us.*

*Celebrant* God of wisdom, bring us into awareness of your presence, as we wait to become so close to you that we may touch even the hem of your cloak. Give us a patience only you can give, slow our hurried hearts, give peace to our anxious minds, and draw us into such a heart of gratitude that we may be caught serving one another when you arrive. *Amen.*

## CONFESSON OF SIN

*Celebrant* Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

*People* Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were not justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

*Celebrant* Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, you are forgiven all your sins. *Amen.*

## THE PEACE

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

*People* And also with you.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Dr. Jerry C. Luck, Jr.  
on what would have been Jerry and Kathy's 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.*

### THE OFFERTORY

*How Quietly*

Joel Raney

### PRESENTATION HYMN

*Come, thou long expected Jesus*

HYMNAL 66, vs. 4

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          *And also 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 God thanks and praise.*

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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

### THE SANCTUS

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

HYMNAL S-129

*Hosanna in the highest.*

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

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*It is customary to kneel during Advent.*

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,

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

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 St. John 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.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 364**

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**

**BCP 364**

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

**THE INVITATION**

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.

**ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION**

*The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. If you wish to receive, please come forward to the altar rail when the usher indicates. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. For the wine, you can receive by guiding the chalice to your lips or by dipping your wafer into the separate intinction cup. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. When finished, please exit to your right. Gluten free wafers are also available.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**      *There's a wideness in God's mercy  
O all ye works of God*

**HYMN 470**  
**HYMN 428**

**SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS**

*Celebrant* In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.  
*People* We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Hark! the glad sound!*

**HYMN 72**

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*         *Thanks be to God.*

## POSTLUDE

*Postlude on DIX*

Robert Lind

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## CHRISTMAS GREENS AND POINSETTIAS

Would you like to help us adorn our church with greenery and poinsettias in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one this Christmas? Make a donation to St. John's Episcopal Church and email the following information to [office@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:office@stjohns-lancaster.org) or fill out a card in the pew and place it in the offertory plate! The deadline is TODAY!

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Given by:

### **St. John's Traveler Letter:**

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

I have to admit, while the sunny blue skies are nice here in the South Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea, I do miss the winter weather during this Advent period of waiting ahead of Christmas. Word on the street is that you all got your first snow in Lancaster!

I almost didn't make it here – a large explosion of the Ulawun volcano last month is still spewing smoke and causing some small earthquakes across the country. It made for an interesting landing in the capitol of Port Moresby – thankfully the pilot knew what she was doing and we landed with no trouble.

I spent my first day in this island country (just north of Australia) in a cathedral in the town of Dogura. It's the largest cathedral in the country and was completed just a few years before the outbreak of World War II. A year after the war began, the Japanese invaded and occupied the country. Over the course of their occupation, more than 300 church workers of all denominations, including eight Anglican clergy and missionaries, were killed. We remember these "New Guinea Martyrs" and the sacrifices they made ever September 2.

We also spent some time earlier this week helping some villages rebuild that were damaged by the volcano explosion. I was shocked to find a small Anglican congregation – that's what we call Episcopalians here – living here, including a 90 year old woman who had memories of the war. She described the fear faced by some of those church messengers back in the 1940s, but also their determination in making sure that the Word of God remained burning bright during terrible times.

It's the resilience of that village and the spirit of the New Guinea Martyrs that's driving me forward as we approach the most holy season of the church calendar. Wishing you peace and blessings during this busy time from sunny Papua New Guinea!

John Traveler

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:**

### **TODAY**

*Coffee Hour to follow each service*

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
11:30 AM Adult Forum  
12:00 PM Vestry Meeting

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

6:00 PM Daughters of the King

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry  
2:30 PM Food Pantry

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

12:00 PM Healing Service  
6:30 PM Worship in the Courtyard  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting  
2:30 PM Food Pantry  
6:30 PM Men's Gathering  
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

*Rector's Day Off*

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

*Advent IV & Christmas Eve*

9:00 AM Single Service  
3:30 PM Family Service  
9:30 PM Candlelit Service

### **ADULT FORUM: WHY WE WORSHIP**

Join St. John's Director of Music Douglas Beach as he leads the second of a four week series on the history and practical understanding of music in worship!

Sessions will take place in the Parish Hall from 11:30AM-12:30PM  
today and on January 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>!

### **WORSHIP IN THE COURTYARD**

*Every Wednesday of Advent at 6:30 PM*

Join us each week, around the Community Christmas Tree, for outdoor worship! Our J2A class (the Youth Group) will be leading our worship this year. See you at the tree!

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

## **OUR MINISTERS**

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector  
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Jen Trenary, Assistant Rector  
jen@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon  
scatigano@gmail.com

## **VESTRY**

Mary Waskowicz (Senior Warden), Leslie Morgan (Junior Warden),  
Nick DiPace, Andy Welaish, John Modene  
Liz West, Ted Loose, Kathy Kyper

## **DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Drew Dorgan, Webb Cook,  
David Rutledge, Heather Trenary, Sue Heilman

## **STAFF**

Douglas Beach, Minister of Music & Communications  
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper  
John Knouse, Property Manager  
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian  
Ellia Osofsky, Nursery Care

**GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE**  
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