



# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

THE HOLY EUCHARIST  
DECEMBER 29, 2024 - 10:00 A.M.

*Welcome! We're so glad to have you joining us for worship today.*

saint mark's episcopal church, palo alto

# Welcome to Saint Mark's

We are a community dedicated to deepening our relationship with God and embodying the Spirit of Christ through faithful expressions of love, service, compassion, and justice.

*All are welcome to join in worship. During this time we ask everyone to be mindful of others' varying degrees of caution and safety needs. This service is livestreamed and recorded. Music permissions: OneLicense.net A-714107.*

*Newcomers and visitors are encouraged to fill in a Welcome Card or sign the visitor book, which will be on the welcome table. If there are things about our worship that are new to you or do not make sense, try to embrace the unfamiliarity. Consider that you are entering a conversation with God and the faithful which began centuries before we were here and will continue after we are gone. Just join in as you are, and bear with us as we are, and we will all be transformed as we go.*

*Please see instructions for receiving Communion on p. 18. **All who seek to draw near to Christ are invited.***

*Thank you to Margaret Kvamme, our guest organist at this service.*

PRELUDE Huron Carol

*Franklin Ashdown (1942 - 2023)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING HYMN 497 How bright appears the Morning Star

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
 the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
 In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

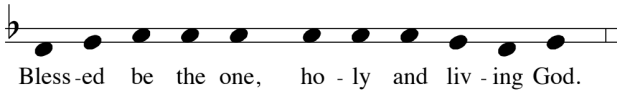
Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
 phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
 Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

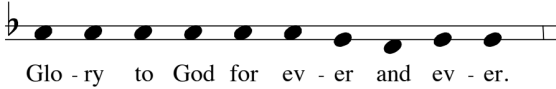
draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant*



*People*



We begin with a call to worship or acclamation and a prayer to open our hearts.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a woman: 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE 96 Angels we have heard on high

GLORIA

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;

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.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

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

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

The Collect of the Day thematically gathers our prayers and readings for the day.

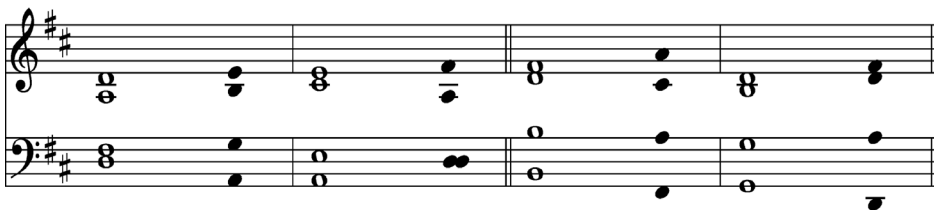
A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

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.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
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 the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

In this passage from Isaiah [61:10—62:3], the prophet, who ministered in the eighth century BC, shares a vision of the coming Messianic reign.

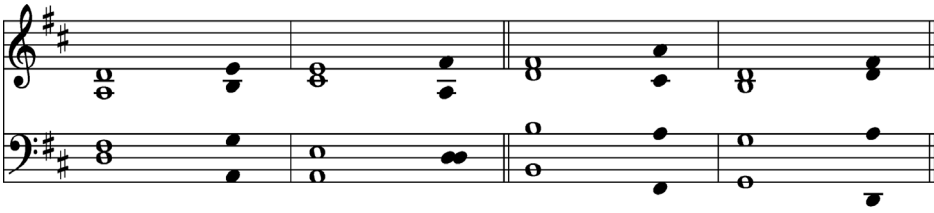
PSALM 147:13-21

*Jerome Meachen (1930-2015)*



Worship God, O Je-/rusalem; \*  
praise your Sovereign, O / Zion;  
For the Holy One has strengthened the bars of your / gates \*  
and has blessed your children with-/in you.

We sing the psalm to simplified Anglican chant. The / marks in the verses correspond to the bar lines in the music. You are welcome to sing in unison or harmony.



Worship God, O / Jerusalem; \*  
praise your Sovereign, O / Zion.

Peace has been established on your / borders; \*  
you are satisfied with the finest / wheat.

You send out your command to the / earth, \*  
and your word runs very / swiftly.

You give snow like / wool \*  
and scatter hoarfrost like / ashes.

You scatter your hail like / bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against your / cold?

You send forth your word and / melt them; \*  
you blow with your wind and the waters / flow.

You declare your word to / Jacob, \*  
your statutes and your judgments to / Israel.

You have not done so to any other / nation; \*  
to them you have not revealed your judgments. Alle-/luia!

#### A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

In this passage the letter to the Christians in Galatia (modern Turkey) [3:23-25; 4:4-7], the author teaches about the incarnation.

And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 100 Joy to the world! the Lord is come ANTIOCH

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 won - ders of his love,

## THE GOSPEL

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

This, the prologue to the Gospel of John [1:1-18] sets out the evangelist's profound Christology (teaching about the nature of Christ).

*Please be seated.*

THE SERMON The Reverend Nancy Ross

*A period of silent reflection follows.*

THE NICENE CREED

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,**

The sermon helps us to reflect on the Scriptures we have heard and to connect them to the Good News present in our lives now.

The Nicene Creed comes to us from the Councils of Nicea (325) and Constantinople (381, where they edited it). It is, therefore, an ancient statement of faith that we hold in common with many Christian denominations. As a statement of belief, that is, of communal trust (not an intellectual assertion of how these things could be), we recite it collectively as a prayer, ending with "Amen."

who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace within and among your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds. Grant rest to all who feel exhausted from their work in this season, especially those struggling to make ends meet despite their labors, those struggling to find work, and those who serve in underappreciated and difficult jobs in every community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people who are lonely or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or circumstance, and your healing grace to those facing illness or need, especially those we name ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We invite you, where indicated, to add your own prayers – for other people, places, and situations, and for yourself. *(Thanksgivings will be offered later in the service.)*

We continue to remember those on our parish prayer list: Meredith; Lee, Pam, Terry, and the Heller Family; Matthew John and Richard; Carrie; Kevin; Vassar; Chung-Ling; Jackie Ray; Emily; Bill; Justin; Katie; Mary; Jerry; Ed and Alicia; Ruth; Ed; David; Marshela; Martin; Mark; Susie; Luke; Terri; Emily; Julie; Julia, Cat, and Ella; Anna; Will; Laurie; Lydia; Gaye; Danielle; Roma; Malin; Kathy; Richard, Walter; Yo; Joanna.

Glory to you, God, for the blessing of your children in every generation. Welcome home all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, especially those we name ... 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.**

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

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

**God-with-us,  
we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have ignored the call of the angels,  
preferring instead echo chambers that drown out the Good News.  
Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

#### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Among the recently departed we remember especially: Lisa, Sharon, and Mary Jane.

We confess the ways in which we have fallen short of God's love, after which a priest pronounces absolution, God's forgiveness, over the people.

We share Christ's peace, given to the disciples.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN 84 Love came down at Christmas

GARTAN

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;  
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;  
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.  
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?  
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

In the Offertory, we offer our lives, labors, and gifts (monetary and those elements of bread and wine to be consecrated) to God's use in the world.

We no longer pass an offertory (collection) plate. Please drop your donations in the plate on your way in or out today. All cash or undesignated checks given in the plate goes directly to Outreach for the wider community. You can give online: [saint-marks.com/give](http://saint-marks.com/give) or by going directly to Tithely with the QR Code below.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*We invite your thanksgivings, aloud, held silently in your heart, or via the chat.*

*Celebrant* May God be with you. *People* And al - so with you.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give 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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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 power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The Sanctus, "Holy," is the song of the angels (Isaiah 6 and Rev. 4). It has been an acclamation of the congregation since around the 4th century. This setting is by Franz Schubert.

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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

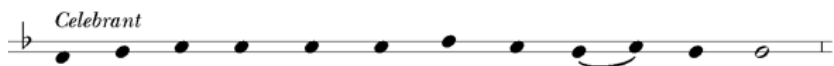
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN.**

The Great Amen is the people's consent to and affirmation of the Eucharistic prayer.

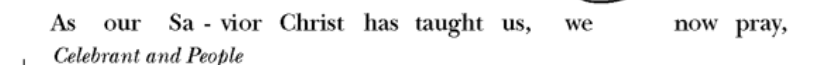
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant*

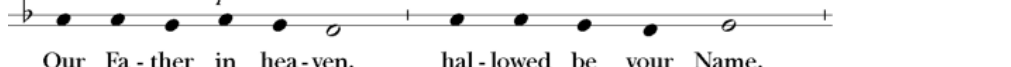


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

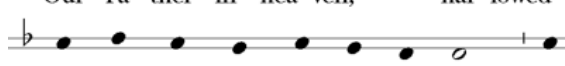
*Celebrant and People*



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

The Gospels of both Matthew and Luke record Jesus teaching this, commonly



For-give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
 Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
 For the king-dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,  
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

called the "Our Father" or the "Lord's prayer," to his disciples when they asked to learn how to pray.

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at this, Christ's table, to receive the bread and the wine, if desired. Gluten-free wafers are available.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

In dulci jubilo

*Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)*

O Jesulein süß, O Jesulein mild

*Michael Gotthardt Fischer (1773-1829)*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Let us pray.

**God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem  
and in the breaking of the Bread:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

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

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

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

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

In addition to the consecrated bread, wine (or grape juice in the glass chalice) is available to those who wish to receive it. Please drink directly from the cup, guiding it to your mouth, and do not intinct (dip) the bread.

A blessing recognizes and asks for God's presence with us.

CLOSING HYMN 82 Of the Father's love begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Please stand in body or spirit.*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

DISMISSAL

Go into the world bearing peace and joy.

**In the name of the newborn Christ. Amen.**

The dismissal sends us out to do our work in the broader world.

POSTLUDE Fantasy on "Joy to the World" Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

## serving at this service

ALTAR GUILD: Maritza Frankfurt

BREAD BAKERS: Suzanne Bell, Marina Martin, Susan Pines, Anne Vosti

GREETERS: Lena Chow, Katie Fantin

TECH ASSISTANT: Zareen Ahmad Brock

LECTORS: Bruce Anderson, Janis Wick

CHALICE BEARER: Cheryl Miller

COUNTERS: Ron Hodges, Peter Kidder

*Liturgy is the work of the people. Please prayerfully discern how you might serve, and speak with The Reverend Nancy Ross <nancy@saint-marks.com> about which ministry would be a good fit for your gifts.*

## saint mark's episcopal church

600 Colorado Ave • Palo Alto, CA 94306

saint-marks.com | 650.326.3800

INTERIM RECTOR: The Rev. Nick Roosevelt

ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. Nancy Ross

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Matthew Burt

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTER: Lily Dodge

ASSISTING CLERGY: The Rev. Prof. Rebecca Lyman, The Rev. Liz Milner

COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS MANAGER: Wenjing Li

SEXTON: Olegário Neves

TECHNICAL PRODUCERS: Gabe Boudtchenko, Jonathan Guillen

WARDENS: Romain Kang, Brie Linkenhoker, and Jonathan Luk

TREASURER: Susan Pines

