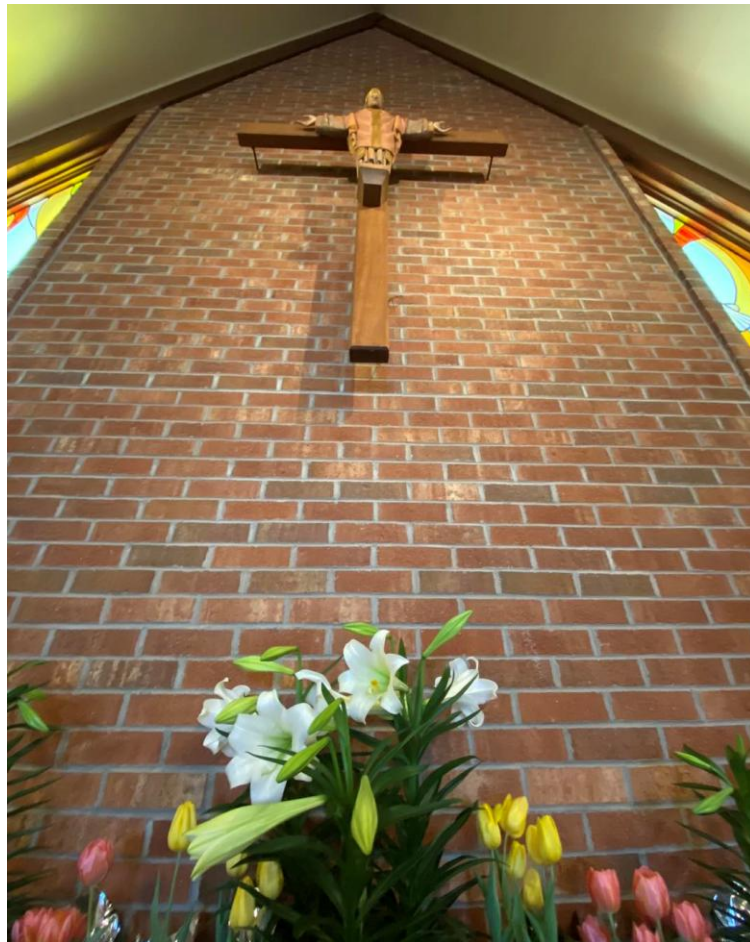


# ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



April 19, 2026  
Third Sunday of Easter  
Morning Prayer

Welcome! If you are visiting, we offer you a special welcome. If you are with us on Zoom and would like more information about our parish, please send the Zoom Usber a chat message, or email [office@stjamesvt.org](mailto:office@stjamesvt.org) with your name, where you're from, and your email address. On Zoom, please keep microphones muted. If you are reading a lesson or adding a prayer aloud during the time of prayers, please unmute yourself, then mute again. In person, sitting distances may be observed and masks may be worn. Please be mindful of the comfort of others.

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn: We know that Christ is raised

Hymnal 296

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system has four lines of lyrics. The second system has four lines. The third system has three lines and includes a first ending bracket over the final two notes. The fourth system is labeled 'Final Ending' and includes a repeat sign and a double bar line.

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. \_\_\_\_\_  
 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death. \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows \_\_\_\_\_

Em-braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold; \_\_\_\_\_  
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
 as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood. \_\_\_\_\_

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. Al - le - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One. \_\_\_\_\_  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing: \_\_\_\_\_

*Final Ending*

lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), alt.  
 Music: Engelberg, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

## Opening Sentence

*Officiant* If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! —2 Corinthians 5:17

*The Confession of Sin is omitted during the Easter Season.*

*Officiant* O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.  
*People* And your glory all the day long.  
*All* Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* O come, let us worship. Alleluia.

**Christ our Passover** *Pascha nostrum*  
*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:8-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

**St. Helena Breviary**

*Said in unison with the Officiant leading.*

Alleluia,  
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.  
Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*  
death no longer has dominion.  
The death that Christ died was death to sin, once for all; \*  
but the life Christ lives, is life to God.  
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*  
and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Alleluia.  
Christ has been raised from the dead, \*  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a human being came death, \*  
by a human being has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, \*  
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* O come, let us worship. Alleluia.

**The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

**St. Helena Psalter**

## Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

*Read in a manner chosen by the Officiant: direct recitation (unison), antiphonally (side to side) or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating either by verse or at the asterisk.*

- 1 I love you, O God, because you have heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because you have inclined your ear to me whenever I called upon you.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon your holy Name: \*  
“O God, I pray you, save my life.”
- 10 How shall I repay God \*  
for all the good things done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of God.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to God \*  
in the presence of all people.
- 13 Precious in your sight, O God, \*  
is the death of your servants.
- 14 O God, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon your holy Name.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to you \*  
in the presence of all your people,
- 17 In the courts of God’s house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia!

Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit, \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

## The Lessons

### First Reading: Acts 2:14a,36-41

**Lector:** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every

one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

**Lector** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**People** *Thanks be to God.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Canticle: A Song of the Heavenly City** *Revelation 21:22-26, 22:1-4*

**EOW 38**

*Said responsively by whole verse alternating between Officiant and People.*

I saw no temple in the city, \*  
for its temple is the God of surpassing strength and the Lamb.  
And the city has no need of sun or moon to light it, \*  
for the glory of God shines on it, and its lamp is the Lamb.  
By its light the nations shall walk, \*  
and the rulers of the world lay their honor and glory there.  
Its gates shall never be shut by day, nor shall there be any night; \*  
into it they will bring the honor and glory of nations.  
I saw the clean river of the water of life, bright as crystal, \*  
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.  
The tree of life spanned the river, giving fruit every month, \*  
and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of nations.  
All curses cease where the throne of God and the Lamb stands,  
and all servants give worship there; \*  
there they will see God’s face, whose Name shall be on their foreheads.

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

**Lector:** A reading from the first Letter of Peter

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**Lector** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**People** *Thanks be to God.*

**Anthem: Awake, My Heart**

- Jane M. Marshall

**Gospel: Luke 24:13-35**

*Please remain seated for the reading of the Gospel in the service of Morning Prayer.*

**Deacon or Officiant:** A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed,

and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Deacon/Officiant** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.  
**People** *Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon**

**Meg Vittum**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**EOW 41**

*All standing as able, the creed is said in unison*

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 again 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.

**The Prayers**

*Officiant* God be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Officiant* Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## Suffrages

EOW 42

*The Suffrages are said responsively*

V. Help us, O God our Savior;  
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.  
V. Look upon your congregation;  
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.  
V. Declare your glory among the nations;  
R. And your wonders among all peoples.  
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;  
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.  
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;  
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.  
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

## The Collect of the Day

St. Helena Breviary

*All are invited to say the Collect of the Day together.*

O God, whose blessed One was made known to the disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold the redeeming work of Christ; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## A Collect for a Time of Transition

Chief Shepherd, we trust in your guidance for our church. We ask for your Holy Spirit to fill us with wisdom and unity as we navigate this time without a priest in charge. Protect us from division and discouragement. Empower our leaders and members to serve faithfully, meet our needs, and continue to spread the Gospel. Guide us to the leader you have chosen for us and help us grow in your kingdom. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

## **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **A Collect for the Creation**

**A New Zealand Prayer Book** (*modified*)

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation, give us fruitful harvests and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Thanksgivings and Intercessions**

*The Intercessor offers prayers for those on our prayer lists. All may sit.*

We remember and pray for Church of Our Saviour and the ministries of Mission Farm, Killington; the Rev. Lisa Ransom in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks and pray for Finn Clark, Molly Rudgers, Carl Runge, Jenny Knowles, and Stefanie Whalen who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving.

*The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.*

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers, especially Grace; Kristen; Tyler; Beth; Darcy; Foster Borch; Connie; Neil Eklund; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; John; Matthew; Lindsey Huddle; and Sean, friend of Jeff Moskovics. We pray for all suffering injustice, fear and uncertainty.

I invite your prayers of intercession.

*The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.*

We pray for those who have died, especially for the people who have died in global conflicts, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, Iran, and Israel and Gaza; the people who have died from violence; and for all the people who mourn these losses.

I invite your prayers for those who have died.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

The Intercessor offers a Prayer for Justice.

Creator of the Universe, source of all goodness and love, we ask wisdom, help, and guidance as we work to counter the many instances of injustice and racism in our world. Help us to value differences in culture, religious beliefs, and physical appearance, and celebrate the God-made wonder of every human being. Help us to be vigilant, working against racial and social injustice in our own hearts and in the world around us, that we may live into our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. *Amen.*”

The Officiant concludes with the following collect.

### A Collect of Dedication

Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

The people's offerings are gathered and brought to the altar by the ushers to be offered to God. *All stand as able.*

### Offertory Hymn: Emmaus

Elizabeth Walters

14. EMMAUS  
words & music © 1982 Elizabeth Walters

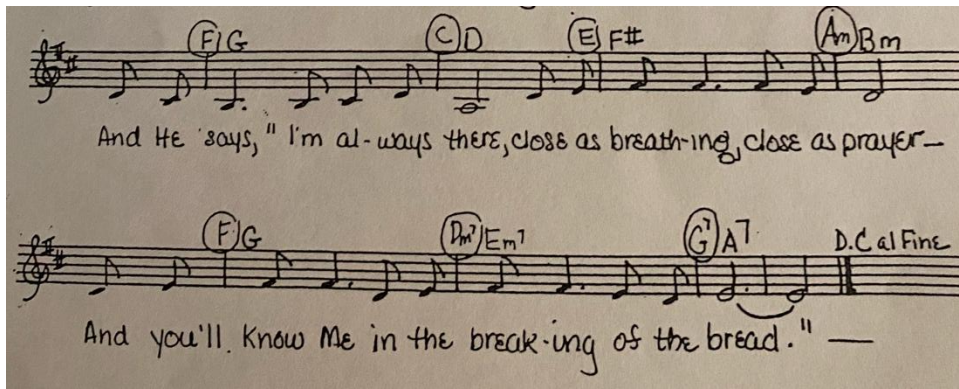
1. We were walk-ing home that day, and sor-row filled us, cold and grey,  
2. So when-er you are lost, and you fear what life will cost,  
3. As we gath-er in His name, He is with us, still the same,

1. For our Je-sus, whom we loved, He was gone, He was dead,  
2. When you feel the Lord is far, hope is gone, love is dead,  
3. For our Sa-viour and our friend is not gone, is not dead,

1. Then un-known, He came our way, to talk and dine, but not to stay,  
2. Join your bro-thers, sis-ters all, - come and an-swer Je-sus' call,  
3. Je-sus lives with us to-day, as we walk with-in His way,

1. And we knew Him in the break-ing of the bread.  
2. And you'll know Him in the break-ing of the bread.  
3. And we know Him in the break-ing of the bread.

FINE



Please continue to support our parish life and ministries by sending your offering to St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place, Essex Junction, VT 05452. You may also give online by visiting: [stjamesvt.org/giving](http://stjamesvt.org/giving)

## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*The Officiant and People say together*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

## Community Announcements

### Dismissal

Deacon Let us go bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Concluding Sentence

*The Officiant says*

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* *2 Corinthians 13:14*

### Sending Hymn: Baptized in water

LEVAS 121

*All stand as able.*

1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Cleansed by the  
 2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Dead in the  
 3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Marked with the

1. blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion,  
 2. tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing,  
 3. sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther,

1. trust - ing his prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing,  
 2. freed and for - giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing,  
 3. we are his child - ren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Seward (b. 1932). Music: Eugene Hancock (b. 1929).

## Postlude

*Music used with permission under OneLicense #A-727024*

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*Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.  
 And please join us for a brief Compline service with music online Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.*



**Officiant:** Heather Winship  
**Preacher:** Meg Vittum  
**Lector:** Karen Robinson  
**Intercessor:** Peggy Bonesteel  
**Musicians:** Carol Reichard; St. James Choir  
**In-Person Ushers:** Nancy Collins, Ernie Rheaume  
**Minister of Technology:** Janice Rheaume  
**Digital Usher:** Brian Garland

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Diocesan and Anglican Cycles of Prayer:** We remember and pray for Church of Our Saviour and the ministries of Mission Farm, Killington; the Rev. Lisa Ransom in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

**We pray for those who are sick, who are recovering from injuries or surgery, or who have asked for our prayers:** Grace; Kristen; Tyler; Beth; Darcy; Foster Borch; Connie; Neil Eklund; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; John; Matthew; Lindsey Huddle; and Sean, friend of Jeff Moskovics. We pray for all suffering injustice, fear and uncertainty.

**We pray for those who have died and those who mourn:** especially for the people who have died in global conflicts, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, Iran, and Israel and Gaza; the people who have died from violence; and for all the people who mourn these losses.

### **Birthdays:**

Finn Clark, April 20  
Molly Rudgers, April 22  
Carl Runge, April 23  
Jenny Knowles, April 24  
Stefanie Whalen, April 24



## Easter Flowers are Given in Loving Memory of:

David Ashley

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### **The Third Sunday of Easter—Year A**

Welcome to Saint James Church. Each year on this Sunday, the Gospel reading reflects on one aspect of the Lord's resurrection. Today's reading is an account of the risen Christ sharing food with his friends. Today we hear about his breaking bread with two disciples who encountered him on their way to Emmaus. Jesus expounded the scriptures to them and at table took bread, said the blessing and broke the bread. It was at that moment that they recognized him.

The first reading continues Peter's sermon on the first Pentecost day, which we began reading last Sunday. The result of the sermon was a large crowd turning to Jesus as Messiah and being baptized. The church's way of living and sharing its life is then briefly described.

Today's reading from 1 Peter continues the letter's theme: baptism and its results in our lives. We are all new people in the risen Lord and now live in him.

Each Sunday is the resurrection day. For that reason, the church has always made the Eucharist the center of its Sunday worship. As the disciples on the road to Emmaus discovered, Jesus really did rise, and meets us here in the sharing of God's Word and in the breaking of the bread. As he did on that evening, we take bread, say the blessing, break the bread, and meet the risen Christ.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.



## **ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Bishop of Vermont: The Right Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Brian Garland

Junior Warden, Jeff Moskovics

Linda Chiasson

Frances Huessy

Kathy Laidman

Jenny Ogelby

Neal Robinson

George Rudgers

Parish Treasurer: Susan Ficklin

Assistant Treasurers: Janice Rheaume and Jenny Ogelby

Pledge Treasurer: Jeanne Pizzi

Vestry Clerk: Molly Rudgers

Minister of Music: Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: SarahJean Bos

Bulletin: Heather Winship

Constellation Partner: Calvary Episcopal Church, Underhill, VT

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