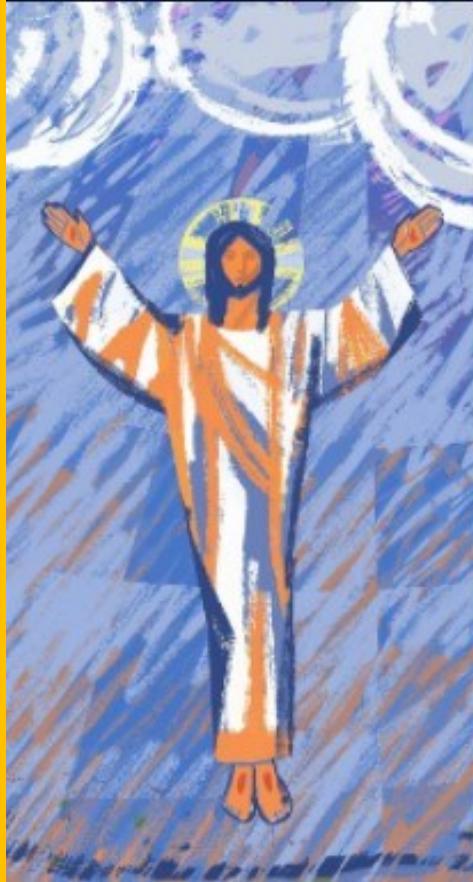


# St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



## The Seventh Sunday of Easter The Ascension of Christ

**May 16, 2021**

**Morning Prayer: Rite Two 9:30<sup>AM</sup>**

Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, in Christ. (BCP 855)

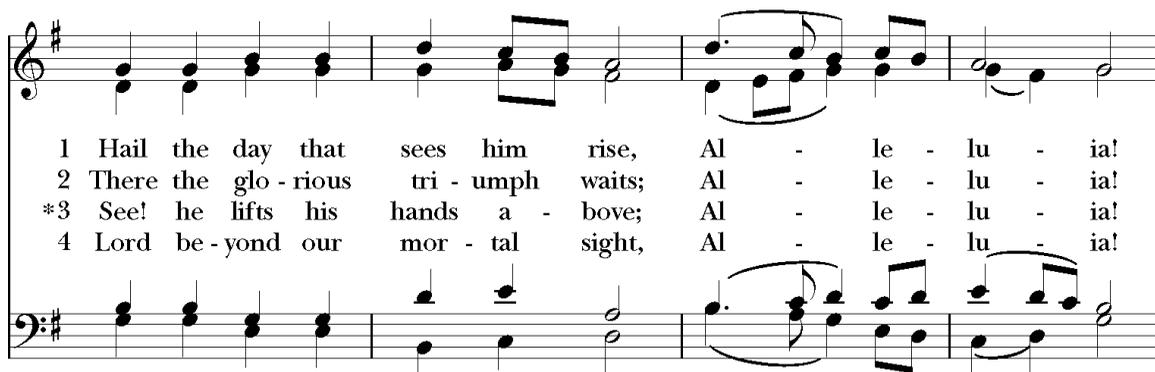
This morning we celebrate with an abridged service of Morning Prayer. This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

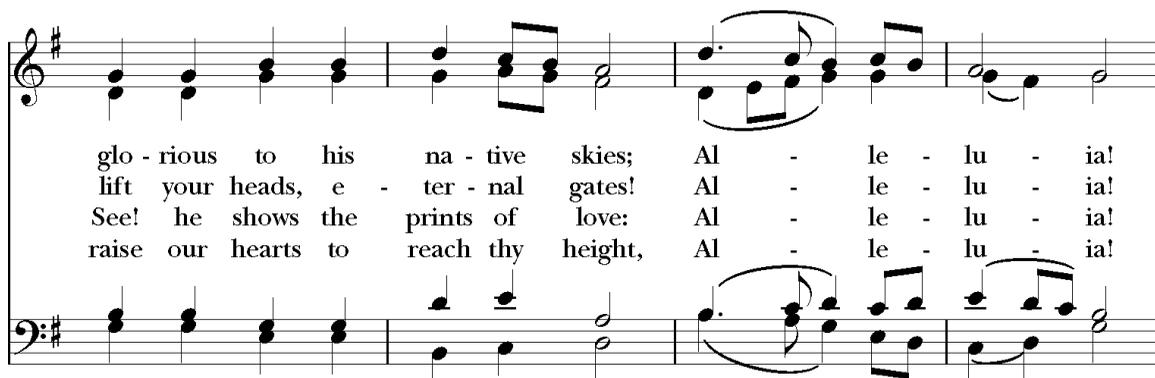
OPENING HYMN: 214

*Hail the day that sees him rise*

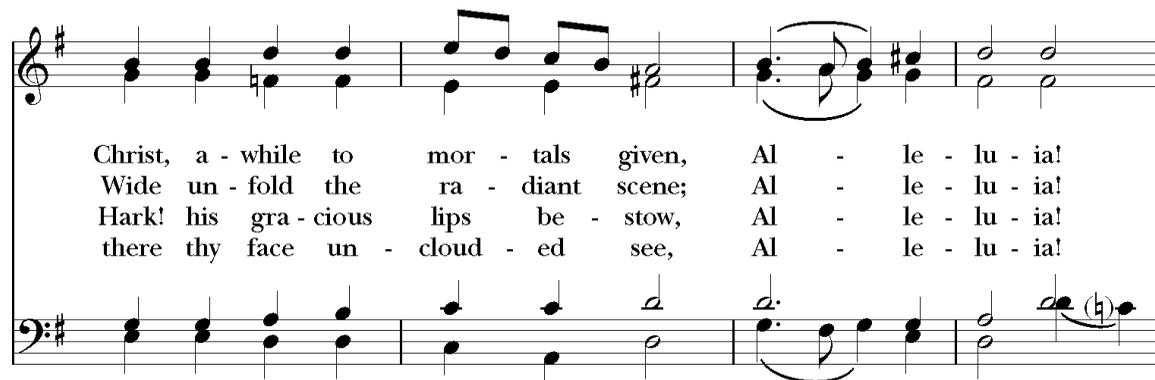
Robert Williams



1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!  
\*3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!



glo - rious to his na - tive skies; Al - le - lu - ia!  
lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!  
See! he shows the prints of love: Al - le - lu - ia!  
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Wide un - fold the ra - diant scene; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!  
there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

## THE OPENING SENTENCE

*Officiant:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Officiant* Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

## CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

*All:* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## PSALM 47

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared, \*  
the great sovereign over all the earth,
- 3 who subdues the peoples under us \*  
and the nations under our feet;
- 4 who chooses our inheritance for us, \*

the pride of Jacob whom God loves.  
5 God has gone up with a shout, \*  
with the sound of the ram's-horn.  
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our sovereign, sing praises.  
7 For God is sovereign of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.  
8 God reigns over the nations \*  
and sits upon the holy throne.  
9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
who is highly exalted.

## ANTIPHON

*Officiant:* Alleluia! Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven:  
*People:* **Come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

### CANTICLE: *Gloria in excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### CANTICLE: CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

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 over him.  
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, \*  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, \*  
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

### **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:44-53**

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.

Offertory Hymn :495 vs 1&3 *Hail though once despised Jesus*

Robert F Kehl



1 Hail, thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, thou Gal - i -  
2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on  
3 Je - sus, hail! en - throned in glo - ry, there for ev - er  
\*4 Wor - ship, hon - or, power, and bless - ing thou art wor - thy



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us;  
thee were laid: by al - might - y love a - noint - ed,  
to a - bide; all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore thee,  
to re - ceive; high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing,



thou didst free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, thou u - ni - ver - sal  
thou hast full a - tone - ment made. All thy peo - ple are for -  
seat - ed at thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners thou art  
right it is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic



Sa - vior, bear - er of our sin and shame! By thy mer - it  
giv - en through the vir - tue of thy blood: o - pened is the  
plead - ing: there thou dost our place pre - pare; ev - er for us  
spi - rits, all your no - blest an - thems raise; help to sing our



we find fa - vor: life is giv - en through thy Name  
gate of hea - ven, re - con - ciled are we with God.  
in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.  
Sa - vior's mer - its, help to chant Em - man - uel's praise!

Words: John Bakewell (1721-1819) and Martin Madan (1726-1790), alt. Music: *In Babilone*, melody from *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradanseu*, 1710; harm. Roy F. Kehl (b. 1935) Copyright ©1984, Roy F. Kehl. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**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: SET A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts of God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## PRAYER LIST

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19.

We pray for all those struggling to find the light of Christ in this skeptical world

We pray for our Nation may we seek justice and work to build harmony.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Bob Gowen, Yumi, Linda Hill, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Hudson Beauregard; Ellie Ruvo, Steven Schubert, Martha Thornley, Warren Blyden and Shlomo Teladano**

We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda Hastings, Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Roberta Darrigrand, Jim, Marge, Joe Smith, Carolyn Damiano, Deanna Ammirato and Bill & Dorothy D'Amato.**

We pray for those struggling with chronic illness, especially: **Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Peter, Hannelore, and Jeff.**

We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School**, and the American **Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**. We pray for all those affected by the recent violence in the Holy Land.

We pray for those who have died, in the violence enslaving the world and the over 560,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

*Officiant:* Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked for faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## A COLLECT FOR ASCENSION DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BLESSING

### CLOSING HYMN 603

*When Christ was lifted from the earth*

Gordon Slater



1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his  
2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and  
3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -  
4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,  
al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us  
vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels  
I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.  
as his friends and loves us as we are.  
but a face, a per - son, and a name.  
cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

**DISMISSAL**

*Deacon:*

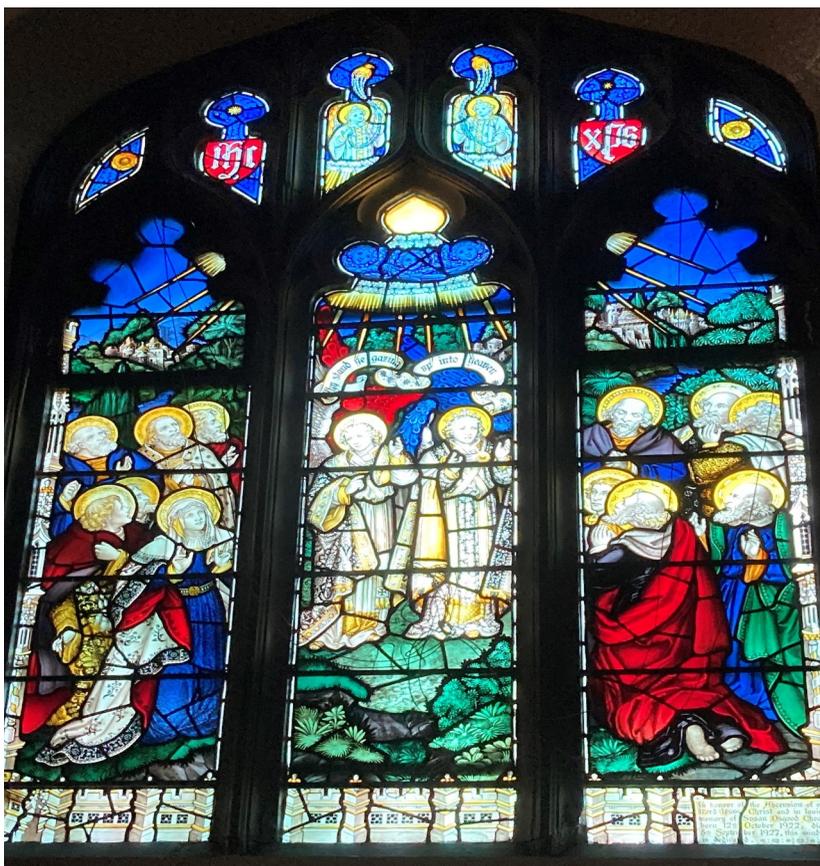
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord!*

**People:**

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### STEWARDSHIP

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Risen Christ into heaven, to sit at the right hand of God. It is powerful moment in the Christ story and an inspiration. Have you ever notice the beautiful Ascension window on the North Wall here at St. John's? This window was generously donated in memory of Susan Osgood Choate in 1927. Their generous Stewardship has provided us extraordinary gift for continuing to tell the amazing story of Jesus Christ and of God's unfailing love.



The flowers on the Altar this morning are given by Mother Mary & Hal Gregorius in loving memory of Gertrude L. Greene, O. Roy Greene. O. Roy Greene, Jr., Howard & Mary Greene Flemming.

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**—The Thrift Store is asking those previous and interested volunteers to contact Linda or Joan with their availability. We are currently open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. We need help as follows: 1) Outside of the store to assist with the inflow of customers 2) Inside the stores to assist with customers. The Thrift Store operates within NYS guidelines for PPE precautions. Please email Linda Spione at spionelinda@gmail.com or Joan Scire at joanscire@aol.com with your availability.

**TUESDAY NOON ZOOM PRAYERS:** Join us via ZOOM for a brief moment of calm in your all to hectic day.

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY:** at 11am; ZOOM link sent out in This Week @ St. John's. We are working our way through Paul's Letter to the Romans. You are welcome to join us.

**ST. JOHN'S STAFF:**

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Treasurer: Ken Foley foleyken6@gmail.com  
Videographer Hal Gregorius Video Editor Raphael Wong  
Cantor Angela Berg Web Master Jonathan Pytell  
Vestry: Ken Foley, Laura Simpson, Jim Dirlam, Sarah Hoadley, Lynn Russell, Joan Scire-Vitkevich, Philippa Seltzer-Muschko,