

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Holy Eucharist 9:30^{AM}

Peace



St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570
(914) 769-0053 www.stjohnspleasantville.org

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector

AN INVITATION TO THIS SERVICE

This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.** All are welcome at Christ's table. We welcome baptized

Christians of any tradition to share in the bread and wine. If you have not yet been baptized, or would prefer to receive a blessing from the Priest, indicate this by crossing your arms over your heart.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

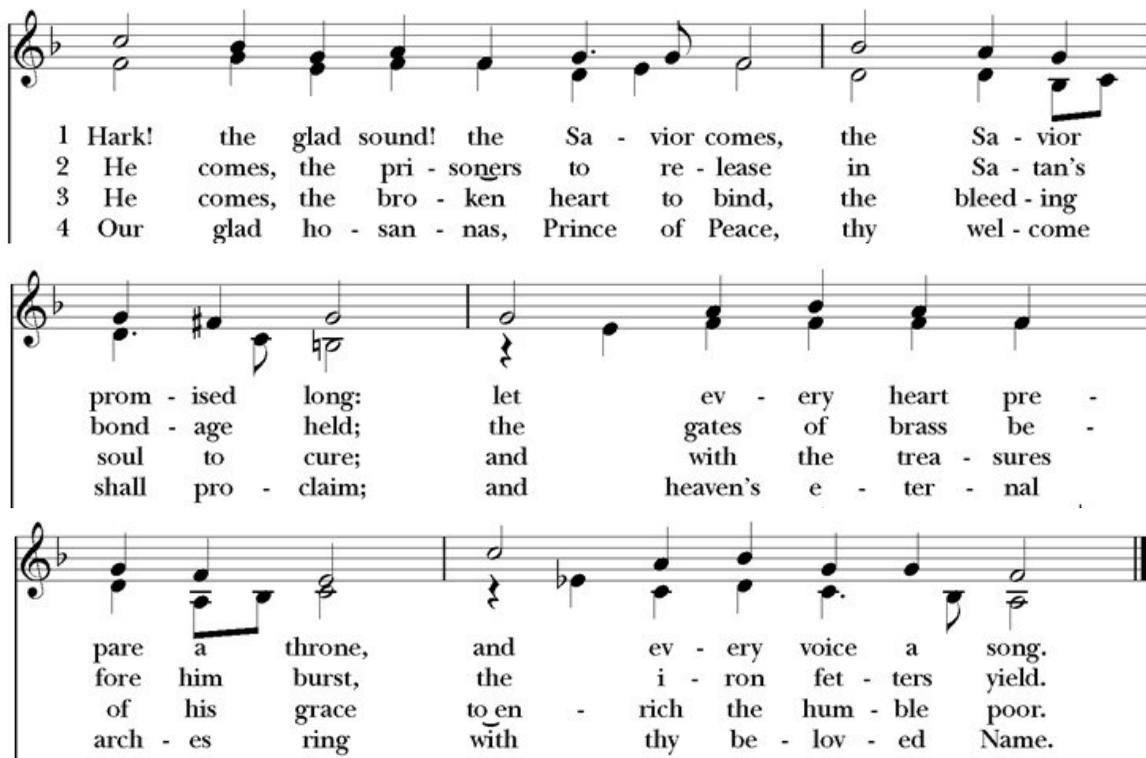
PRELUDE

THE WORD OF GOD

✠ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

OPENING HYMN #71

“Hark! the glad sound!”



1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long: let ev - ery heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song,
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

ANTHEM (LUCERNARIUM) AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Celebrant: You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God you make my darkness bright.

***People:* You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God you make my darkness bright.**

Celebrant: You have been my helper:

***People:* My God, you make my darkness bright.**

Celebrant: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

***People:* You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God, you make my darkness bright.**

Celebrant: Let my prayer be set forth, O Lord:

***People:* As incense in your sight.**

Celebrant: Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts

***People:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts**

Celebrant: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

***People:* O Lord God of Hosts**

Celebrant: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

***People:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts**

Celebrant: Show us your mercy, O Lord:

***People:* And grant us your salvation.**

KYRIE

missa de Sancta Magdalena, Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

✠ *Please be seated for The Lessons.*

A READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT

Baruch 5: 1-9

Read by: Jim Dirlam

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

CANTICLE 4 BENEDICTUS DOMINUS

Led by: Jim Dirlam

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS:

1: 3-11

Read by: Jim Dirlam

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to

determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

✦ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

SEQUENCE HYMN MHSO #53, VS.2 ONLY

Once he came in blessing

2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3: 1-6

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

✠ *Please be seated for:*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

✠ *Please stand as you are able and say:*

THE NICENE CREED

**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.
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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who celebrate birthdays this week

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **John** Williams, **Frederic**, **Peter**, **Bob** Gowen, **Yumi**, **Ronald** Garvey, **Ed** Meddaugh, **Max**, **Anne**, **Cathy**, **Barbara**, **Howard** Flemming, **Hudson** Beauregard; **Ellie** Ruvo, **Joyce** Makimi, **Rosemary** Recine, **Robert** Lynch, and **Angela** Carrozzo.

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

We pray for those for whom our prayers are asked, especially: **Hank Kennedy Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Joe Smith, Peter, Hannelore, Marina Brandt, Linda Hill, Carol White, Steven Schubert, Paul Seltzer, Jeff and The Rt. Rev Andrew St. John**

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We pray for those who have died, especially Mickie Eschweiler and the over 775,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Silence

Officiant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Silence

All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. *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**

✠ *Please greet one another with:*

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you**

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Storyteller this week

Freddy Norton

telling the story of

John the Baptist



STEWARDSHIP:

As our financial pledging season comes to a close here at St. John's, your Vestry, Wardens and Rector would like to take this moment to thank you for your kind consideration and generosity. We cannot plan the financial future of St. John's without the participation of all our members. St. John's will remain a vital part of your life and the life of our community only with your continued support.

At present you have pledged 60% of our necessary pledge goal of \$110K.

If you have not yet accepted the invitation to make a financial pledge, please do so at your earliest convenience. Pledge cards can be found on our website; stjohnsplesantville.org; or at the back of the church or by calling the office, 914-769-0053.

If your 2021 pledge is not yet completed, please consider completing your pledge this week.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us; an offering and a sacrifice to God.

DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

In this prayer, the lines in bold are spoken by the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give 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.

Priest inserts Proper Preface

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:

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Continues

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,

Celebrant and People

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

Celebrant Continues

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 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

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

All: 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: 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.

✠ *Please join in singing:*

THE COMMUNION HYMN #75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O_____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God_____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst_____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they_____ per - ish, like
feed his_____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;
 lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904) Copyright ©1938, Henry Hugh Bancroft. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

✠ *Please stand as you are able*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

✠ *Please join in singing:*

THE CLOSING HYMN #65

“Prepare the way O Zion”



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright ©1930 by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 CHRISTMAS SERVICES—Mark your calendar!

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Friday December 24th | 6:00PM | Pageant and Holy Eucharist |
| Friday December 24th | 8:00PM | Pageant and Holy Eucharist |
| Saturday December 25th | 10:00AM | Spoken Eucharist |

A-HOME HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE: Gift cards to Stop and Shop, Shoprite, Target, Visa and MasterCard are requested. Please bring cards to church by Dec 12 or mail to Rosemary Carlough. These gift cards help seniors and single parent families.

YAI VIRTUAL GIVING TREE: In the past St. John's has supported YAI by giving holiday gifts to the residents of the YAI home in Pleasantville. Since 2020 the Giving Tree has been done virtually. Please see the link below which has a link to an Amazon Wishlist.

<https://givingtree2021.funraise.org/> To see what YAI does see yai.org.

THRIFT SHOP: EXCITING NEWS! The thrift shop will be open on BOTH Saturdays and Mondays for the holiday season from 10-2. This is a link to our [Sign Up Genius](#).

ORCHESTRA 914 HOLIDAY CONCERTS today at 4:00PM and 6:30PM at St. Johns! Tickets are \$30. A lovely way to welcome in the Christmas Season!

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month; from 5:45PM-7:45PM. ***Our next class is December 14th.*** Please contact Mother Mary+ for more information

ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS READY: Be sure to see St. John's NEW On-line Sunday School lessons on our [website](#) Contact Mother Mary+ if you are interested in story reading

GENERAL VOLUNTEERS: St. John's needs your **TECHNICAL TEAM** help! Contact Warden Matt Ruvo; mattsunset@yahoo.com or The Rev Mary B. Gregorius, mothermarystjohns@gmail.com to volunteer

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER 8:00AM Please consider beginning your day in prayer together. ZOOM link in TW@SJ or [click here](#). Meeting ID 847 0590 3160

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: 11:00AM; meet us in the Pleasantville Diner to study 1 Samuel.

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius mothermarystjohns@gmail.com

Deacon Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal lynn.werdal@gmail.com

Organist: Warren Blyden quintiton@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: stjohnspleasantville@gmail.com

Parish Bookkeeper: Megan Whalen bookkeeper@stjohnspleasantville.com

Administrative Warden: Debbie Paruolo dparuolo@aol.com

Property Warden: Matt Ruvo mattsunset@yahoo.com

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 16