

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth, Celebrant Dr. Erica Ridderman, Homilist 9:00 A.M SERVICE DECEMBER 7, 2025

Prelude Carol Yeargin, Organ

Please stand if able

Processional Comfort, Comfort Ye My People Hymn 67

Liturgy of the Word

The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

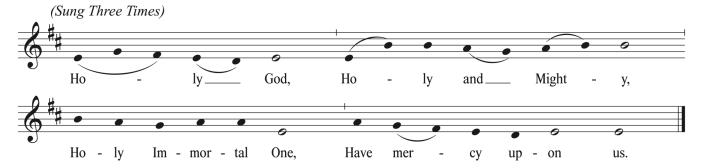
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The following is sung.

Trisagion Holy God Hymnal S99



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

Children's Processional

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (v. 1) Children's Chapel is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

Hymn 490

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A Reading from Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

1

The Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, * and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * from one generation to another.

- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall
 be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, * who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! * and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

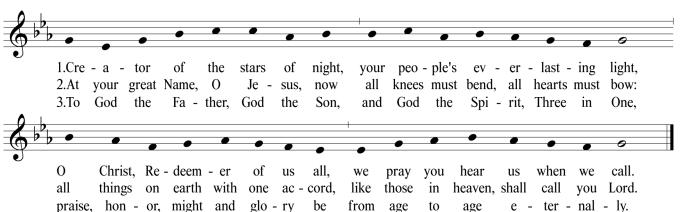
Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Please stand if able

Gradual

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum



Remain standing

The Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

People remain standing until the homilist invites all to be seated

Homily

Dr. Erica Ridderman, Homilist

Please stand if able

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.

Prayers of the People

People's Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution of Sin

BCP 360

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All who are able, kneel. Minister and People

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.

The Celebrant says

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 stand if able

Peace BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please be seated

Welcome, Announcements, and Special Guest

If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found here or on the giving card in the back of the pews.

At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit

organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.



Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Heinrich von Herzogenberg

St. Paul's Choir

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. to show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, When half spent was the night.

Please stand if able while the offering is presented

Offertory Response

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The People remain standing. The Celebrant proceeds
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People



Please stand or kneel if able

The 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,

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant and People

We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant then 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 to 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 forever. *AMEN*.

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer

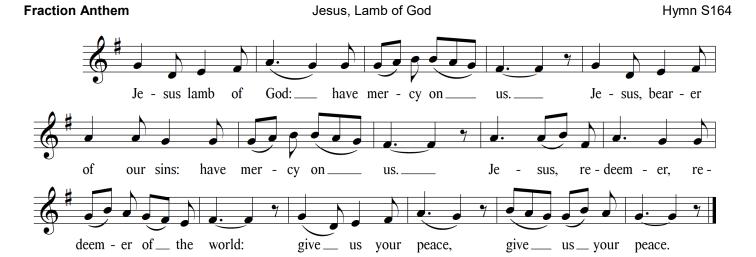
People and Celebrant

BCP 367

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.



Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

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.

All are welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail. If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you. If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup. If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.

A priest is available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

For those worshiping with us online

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Communion Music

Once He Came in Blessing There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Hymn 53 Hymn 75

Please stand or kneel if able

Postcommunion Prayer Celebrant and People

EOW 69

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Please stand if able

Recessional Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding Hymn 59

Dismissal BCP 366

Deacon Let us bless the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Carol Yeargin, Organ

Christmas Eve Services (December 24)

4 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Children's Homily 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day (December 25) 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

First Sunday after Christmas (December 28)

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols (no Eucharist)

TODAY – DECEMBER 7, 2025

Please wear your nametags when you're here at church! And if you don't yet have a nametag, please complete an order form in the narthex (lobby) so we can get you one!

New to St. Paul's? Welcome! Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Connecting Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or The Episcopal Church. Join a tour of our campus the third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. to learn more and meet others. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to find out more about us!

Accessibility: St. Paul's strives to make our services and programs comfortable and accessible to all. Ushers and Greeters are available to help. Please let us know how we can work together to improve your experience here.

Kids in Worship at St. Paul's: Children are always welcome in our worship services without exception, but if parents should wish for a space where your kids have more room to move around during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Comfort Room (glassed-in room at the rear of the worship space from which you can still hear and see the service). Ask an usher if you need help finding it. Also, our Kids' Club (free nursery care) is available during the 9 a.m. service, and infants/toddlers through 36 months (3 years old) are welcome to attend.

Children's Chapel: Children 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to process to Children's Chapel during the 9 a.m. service and will return to their families during announcements, in time for the arrival of our special guest.

Coffee Hour (Narthex): Hosted this week by the St. Nicholas Ministry. Join us for a quick cup of coffee and learn more about all that is going on behind the scenes with this ministry.

Adult Forum (Chapel, 10:15-11 a.m.): Grab a cup of coffee from the narthex and head to the Chapel as we welcome staff from the agencies partnered with our St. Nicholas Ministry. Hear from those who directly support the families about their work and how we are connected.

Children's Sunday School - 5th grade and under (Church): Classes are gathering in the church (NOT classrooms) from 10:15-11 a.m. for a pageant rehearsal. All children are welcome, regardless of their involvement in the pageant.

Youth Sunday School - 6th thru 12th grade (Youth Wing): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): Meets this evening from 5-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall (note location change). Join us for food, fun and conversation.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Lessons and Carols: Immerse yourself in beautiful music and scripture today at 4 p.m. as the St. Paul's Choir, Voices of St. Paul's and the Bells of St. Paul's present the service of Advent Lessons and Carols, directed by our Director of Music Ministries, Rusty McKinney, accompanied by Organist, Carol Yeargin. The Bells of St. Paul's will perform a special prelude, and there will be congregational hymns throughout the service. A reception follows in the narthex (lobby).

Christmas Pageant Reminders: Our fabulous Christmas pageant will be presented at the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 21. We are rehearsing today after the 9 a.m. service in the church. The final rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 20 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. You should have received an email with detailed description and arrivals for this rehearsal from Melanie Williams. If you have any questions, please reach out to Melanie at melanie.moyer.williams@gmail.com. If you are new, or your plans have changed, it's never too late to join us! We can always use more shepherds, soldiers, angels and animals. Ask Melanie how you can join the fun.

Wednesday Contemplative Services in Advent – Noon and 7 p.m.: Join the clergy for contemplative Eucharist services during Advent on Wednesdays, through Dec. 17. We will use the readings for Advent as our guide and have ample time for meditation and reflection. We will offer two services: at noon in the church, and at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Please join us for this time of prayer and reflection in the midst of these busy days.

Campus Closures to Facilitate the Rector Search: The Rector Search Committee is excited to be moving into the next phase of our discernment: in-person visits by selected candidates. To ensure confidentiality of the candidates, St. Paul's buildings and grounds will be CLOSED to all parishioners and staff (except search committee members) during periods on Dec. 11-13; specifics are noted on the parish website. Please work around these dates if you need to be on campus for any reason, unless you have specifically worked out access with Natalie Sroka (natalie@stpaulscary.org).

Responding to our Immigrant Neighbors in Need: As we continue to live into our formation series "Love Our Immigrant Neighbors," we are forming a group of community responders who will support one another while engaging in networks serving those in need. We are gathering on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Wing to share resources and ideas about what's next. If you have a heart for helping those who are living in fear and you are not sure what to do, please come and share ideas with us. Please bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. Contact Lynn Tovar at Iztovar@uwalumni.com if you have questions.

Advent Giving Envelopes: You are invited to contribute extra funds during the season of Advent in support of our parish during this time of transition. You will find Advent giving envelopes in the pews; we also have a giving card with a QR code for online giving. Please indicate Advent Offering in the memo. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Help Us with Hospitality: Do you love baking, welcoming guests or helping in the kitchen during celebratory seasons? We could use some extra hands for the reception we are having after the Christmas pageant (Dec. 21). Tasks are light and many hands will be involved, we just need to fill in a few gaps. It's a great way to meet people and make new friends. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org if you want to help.

St. Paul's Suncatcher Ornaments: Take a closer look at our St. Nicholas tree and you'll see our St. Paul's suncatcher ornaments, available for purchase for just \$8! Use the QR code on the tag or drop the money in the collection plate (note "ornament" in the memo) – all proceeds will become part of the Advent collection, supporting the work of our parish during this time of transition. Add one of these to your St. Nick gift – or your own tree! Get one while supplies last!

Donate a Christmas Poinsettia: Donate a poinsettia to honor the special people in your life! Christmas poinsettia envelopes are available now in the pews. Fill out the envelope with your name and the information about your loved one(s), noting whether it is given in memory of or in thanksgiving for them. Enclose \$35 per plant; drop the envelope in the collection plate or in the office by December 14; plants may be taken home after the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service.

Alternate Gift Giving Supporting Heifer International this Christmas: During this giving season, you are invited to honor family and friends by giving a gift in the form of a donation to Heifer International, supporting Heifer's mission to end world hunger and poverty. Donations can be placed in the Heifer Ark during the offertory on Sunday mornings, mailed to the church office, or completed online through the St. Paul's Heifer donation webpage. Please make donation checks to St. Paul's with Heifer International written on the memo line. After donating, pick up a Heifer International card (located in the narthex/lobby) to send to those in whose name you have given your gift, or you can send an eCard. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season, and thank you for helping St. Paul's reach its annual goal of donating \$5000 to "Give a Gift Ark of Animals." Questions can be directed to Alison Arnold at alisonearnold@gmail.com.

St. Francis Christmas Tree Sale: For 40 years, the Christmas Tree sale at St. Francis United Methodist Church in Cary has been a local holiday tradition, with proceeds supporting the mission and ministries of the church, serving our local community and beyond. We share common ground with St. Francis in many ways, working together through ONE Wake, the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and our joint support of one another's big events (they love our lobsters). The tree lot is now open. Please consider purchasing a tree or wreath, harvested fresh from western NC, by visiting their lot (2965 Kildaire Farm Rd) or by ordering on their website. Weekend delivery is available.

Welcome the Newly Baptized: A very special welcome to Rowan Alexander Capps, child of Timothy & Sydney Capps, grandchild of Sarah Luceno, baptized at the 11:15 a.m. service today.

Prayer List: We pray for Lori, Guy, Noah, Sally, Regina, Parrish, Jackie, Matias, Yosy, Carter, Mary, Sue, Nancy, Susan, Clarence, Ben, Patrick, Sarah, Dave, Chuck, Kay, Ron, Jack, Gary, Max, May, Bryan, Ariell, Josh, Becky, Allison, Jan, Bertha, Herman, Joyce, Carl, Martha, Farley, Jeff, Sandy, Clarence, Susan, Debbi, Ron, Carolyn, Rick, Elizabeth, Myrna, Laura, Ken, Christine, Steve, Craig, Lana, Claudia, Steve, Karen, Jack, Joyce, and Wanda.

If you have a name you would like to include on the prayer list, or a ministry event that you would like to announce in this printed bulletin, please send information to announcements@stpaulscary.org. Names included in the prayer list will remain for a month, and we are happy to extend at your request. Please note that there is a 2-week lead time on printed announcements.



St. Paul's Website

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Worship. Serve. Grow.
Church Phone: 919-467-1477 Website: www.stpaulscary.org

The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Interim Rector
The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth, Interim Associate Rector
Dr. Erica Ridderman, Minister for Children, Youth, and Family Formation
The Rev. Candy Snively, Deacon
Russell McKinney, Director of Music Ministries
Carol Yeargin, Organist

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