

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ISLE OF HOPE  
THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 9, 2026

*We are a welcoming community of faith and love that serves one another  
and seeks to draw others to God through our ministries.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Jesus Loves Me (with Debussy's "Clair de Lune")* arr. Fred Bock

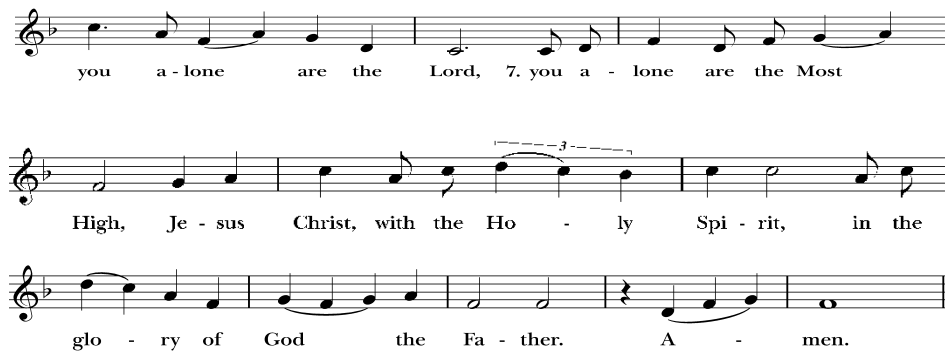
THE OPENING HYMN *When morning gilds the skies* Hymnal #427

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE GLORIA S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 232

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

### A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we

shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him” —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

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

PSALM 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b (*read responsively by half verse*)

BCP 738

- 
- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; \*  
**make known his deeds among the peoples.**
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
**and speak of all his marvelous works.**
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; \*  
**let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; \*  
**continually seek his face.**
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
**his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,**
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
**O children of Jacob his chosen.**
- 16 Then he called for a famine in the land \*  
**and destroyed the supply of bread.**
- 17 He sent a man before them, \*  
**Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**
- 18 They bruised his feet in fetters; \*  
**his neck they put in an iron collar.**
- 19 Until his prediction came to pass, \*  
**the word of the LORD tested him.**
- 20 The king sent and released him; \*  
**the ruler of the peoples set him free.**
- 21 He set him as a master over his household,  
**as a ruler over all his possessions,**
- 22 To instruct his princes according to his will  
**and to teach his elders wisdom.**
- 45 **Hallelujah!**

## A Reading from the Book of Romans

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

*Eternal Father, strong to save*

Hymnal #608

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you

doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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

*Litanist* With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**

*Litanist* For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**

*Litanist* For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**

*Litanist* For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer we pray especially for those we name aloud or silently within our hearts (*brief silence*). Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**

*Litanist* For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide vestry members, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**

*Litanist* We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,  
*People* **Receive our prayer.**

*Litanist* Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People* **Amen.**

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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 ABSOLUTION

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 PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

#### ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*I Will Be True*

arr. Don Besig

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 praise him, all creatures here below;  
 praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
 Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

8:00 am – Eucharistic Prayer II – BCP 340

10:00 am – Eucharistic Prayer A – BCP 361

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name,

## SANCTUS

S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 363

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

**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.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

*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.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

*Jesus call us; o'er the tumult*

Hymnal #549

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Those unable to take communion today may pray this prayer:*

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

*Celebrant* In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body as we all share the one bread and the one cup. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, and the blessing of God Almighty: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

*My faith looks up to thee*

Hymnal #691

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

THE POSTLUDE

*Higher Ground*

arr. Mark Hayes

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*The flowers on the altar are given by Casey and Judy Wenum to the glory of God and in celebration of their fourth wedding anniversary.*

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## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

*Lay Eucharistic Minister:* (8:00 am) Chris Conner

(10:00 am) Annie Quaile and Kelley Marshall

*Lay Eucharistic Visitor:* Bob Lupacchino

*Acolytes: Crucifer:* Sheldon White

*Lectors:* (8:00 am) Chris Connor (10:00 am) Alton Aimar

*Ushers:* Lela White and Steve Calver

*Vestry on Duty:* Lizann Roberts

*Altar Guild:* Marie Centgraf, Jane Gilchrist, Judy Holland, Lizann Roberts, Elizabeth Varner

*Hospitality:* The Hailey and Fitzgerald Families

*Worship Tech:* Blake Haynes

*Nursery:* Dianne Jones and Eva Aguilar

*Cantors:* Emma Reardon, Ruth Ann Roberson and Larry Roberson

## THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS'

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|                      |          |                                |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday, August 9     | 8:00 am  | Holy Eucharist, Chapel         |
|                      | 9:00 am  | Choir Practice                 |
|                      | 10:00 am | Holy Eucharist, Church         |
|                      | 5:30 pm  | AA, CE Building                |
| Monday, August 10    | 10:00 am | Planning, CE Building          |
|                      | 1:30 pm  | Created to Create, CE Building |
|                      | 6:00 pm  | Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall    |
| Tuesday, August 11   | 4:00 pm  | Circle of Care, Library        |
| Wednesday, August 12 | 7:30 am  | Unseen Guests                  |
|                      | 11:30 am | Healing Service, Chapel        |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### August Outreach

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national non-profit group that builds and gives free beds to children aged 3 to 17 who do not have a bed. Volunteers build handmade bed frames, add brand-new mattresses and bedding, and deliver them with the motto: "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!"

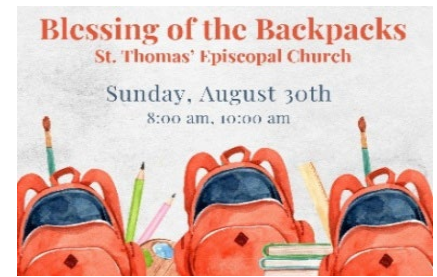
The local chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is in need of twin sized "bed-in-a-bag" sets for little boys age 3 to 10. These are given to foster children. They can be purchased for as little as \$25 at Walmart or from Amazon. Donations can be dropped off on the table in the parish hall.

### August is National Make-A-Will Month

As you consider your plans, we invite you to remember the **St. Thomas Endowment Fund**. A legacy gift to the Endowment Fund helps ensure the long-term financial strength of our church, allowing St. Thomas to continue serving future generations through worship, outreach, fellowship, and ministry.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

Students, teachers, administrators, and school staff are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or school bags as we ask God's blessing on the new school year. Join us at the 8:00 am or 10:00 am service on Sunday, August 30th as we pray for a safe, joyful, and successful year ahead!



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## Changes to Parking

The property across the street from the chapel has recently been sold. As we welcome our new neighbors, we ask that everyone park only in the designated parking spaces on St. Thomas Avenue or in the main parking lot on Cornus Drive. Thank you for helping us be good neighbors!

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## Exciting Update to our Church

With many thanks to a donor and capital campaign funds we are in the planning stages of building the much anticipated "portico," the covered walkway connecting the CE Bldg to side door of the parish hall, and a covered walkway from the church building to the main entrance of the administrative office doors. The Buildings & Grounds Committee reports that Cogdell Mendrala Architects are coordinating with the electrical and structural facets of the project, and the current timeline has drawings and specifications ready in about 3 weeks to go out to bid for potential contractors. We are anticipating a start date of January 2027.

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## Congratulations, Greg Washabaugh!

Greg recently became the proud grandfather of twin girls, who were born on July 30! Wanting to be closer to his growing family, Greg and his wife, Amy Jo, will be moving to Ohio in the near future. While we'll certainly miss Greg, we're excited for this new chapter in their lives. We've begun the search for a new sexton and hope to hire someone soon so they can work alongside Greg before his departure. As his move gets closer, we'll share more details about how we'll celebrate Greg and thank him for his faithful service to St. Thomas.

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## Children's Chapel Volunteers

Children's Chapel Volunteer Meeting on **Sunday, August 16, at 9:00 am** in the library. We're grateful that Piper Ochsner has once again agreed to lead Children's Chapel this year, and we'll continue using the curriculum developed by Rev. Helen White. Come see how you can make a lasting difference in the faith journey of our children!

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## Pizza with the Priest

Calling all families with children ages newborn to kindergarten! Join Rev. Colette for pizza, and conversation as we begin building a strong community for our youngest families at St. Thomas'. This is a relaxed opportunity to get to know one another, make new friends, share your hopes for your family and our church, and help shape how we can best support you. We want to hear your ideas, learn what matters most to your family, and dream together about the future of children's ministry at St. Thomas'. Come hungry, bring the kids, and let's start building something wonderful together! Please RSVP by August 27<sup>th</sup> at **Pizza w/ the Priest** or call the parish administrator at (912) 355-3110.



We're so glad you're here to worship with us. Restrooms are in the Parish Hall and the Christian Education (CE) Building.

Children's faith formation is offered during the 10:00 am service for infants through 5th grade. In the Nursery (ages 0–4), children sing, hear Bible stories, enjoy crafts, play, and have a snack. If you use the nursery, we invite you to bring your child back into the church to receive Communion or a blessing.

Children's Chapel is on hiatus until the fall. During the school year, children are invited to participate in Children's Chapel during the first part of the service. They will process out behind the cross to the CE Building and return to the church at the Peace. Parents and caregivers are always welcome to accompany their child to either the nursery or Children's Chapel. If you have any questions, an usher will be happy to help.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians—of any age or denomination—are welcome to receive Holy Communion. At St. Thomas', we share the common cup. You may either consume the bread and sip from the chalice or hold your bread and dip (intinct) when the chalice comes to you. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

If you'd like to learn more about our worship or traditions, please feel free to speak with The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr.

We'd love to stay connected—please fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and return it to a member of the clergy or an usher so we can greet you more personally in the days ahead.

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**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Staff**

The Rt. Rev. Frank Sullivan Logue, Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr, Priest in Charge of  
Parish Life, Worship, and Pastoral Care  
Tripp Hardee, Minister of Music  
Greg Washabaugh, Sexton  
Mallory Abshire, Bookkeeper

**The Vestry**

Charlie Barrow, Senior Warden  
Lizann Roberts and Stewart Marshall, Co-Junior Wardens  
Mitch Green, Treasurer  
Jane Gilchrist, Clerk

|                |                  |                 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Charlie Barrow | Jennifer Calver  | Marie Centgraff |
| Tracy Edgar    | Betty Henderson  | Robert Hughes   |
| Bob Lupacchino | Stewart Marshall | Amy Minis       |
| Lizann Roberts | Claudia Welch    | Benjamin Watson |



If you would like to give electronically towards our offering today or if you are traveling during the year, there are two easy and safe options: through our website at [www.stthomasioh.org/give](http://www.stthomasioh.org/give) or through Venmo.