Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 9 a.m. ☙ The Last Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☙ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to the Palmer Hall service

We are delighted you are here. Wherever you might be on your faith journey, we hope your experience here will strengthen and affirm you. We are sure that your presence among us today strengthens others, and we welcome you to join in everything that St. Stephen's offers. Every Sunday, we offer several different services of worship (at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m., and 5:30 and 8 p.m.), each with its own character. At 9 a.m., two services are happening simultaneously—one in the main church, and this one which takes place in Palmer Hall Chapel.

The Palmer Hall service for some feels especially welcoming to families, particularly those with babies and children. Both of the 9 a.m. services—this one, and the one in the main church—include important roles for children, and people of all ages are welcome at any service. In Palmer Hall, our worship space includes a "soft space." This is an area with a rug, floor cushions, and children's books where children can move a bit more freely and comfortably than they can in rows of seating. Please accompany your child to the soft space if and when they want to visit it; this helps us ensure the safety and comfort of our whole community.

Both of the 9 a.m. services include Holy Eucharist. All are welcome at the altar in this place. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to intinct, touching the edge of the bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms on the front of your chest. Children who have been baptized are welcome to receive communion. The important thing is that you know God welcomes you and that this church welcomes you. Please come back often.

Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

Opening Hymn *Demos gracias* *Sung by all, standing, several times.* Cesareo Gabarain



Translation: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Leader Glory to the Holy One:
People **God beyond us, God with us, and God within us,**
Leader Ever living, everlasting, ever loving One,
People **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

The Collect of the Day The Book of Common Prayer, page 236

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

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Reader A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

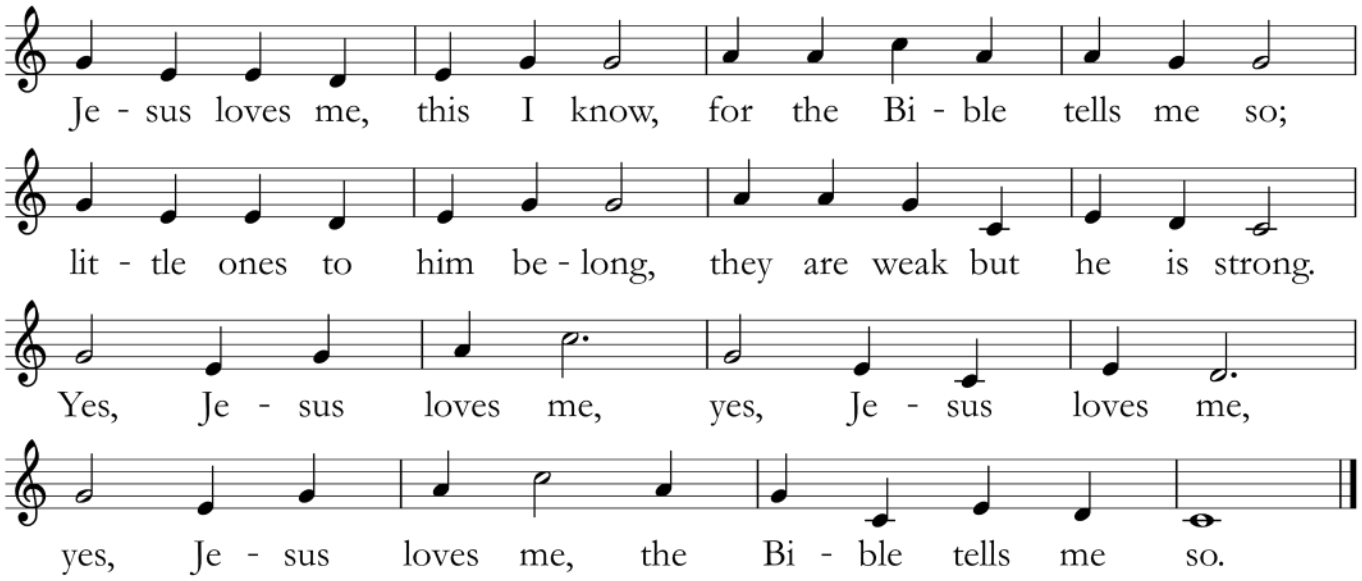
Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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

The Gospel Song Jesus loves me *Jesus loves me*

Sung twice by all, standing, before and after the Gospel.



The Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

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

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

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Wondering The Rev. Cate Anthony

The children are invited to gather on the center rug.

The Creed *Said by all, standing.*

I believe in God above,
I believe in Jesus' love.
I believe God's Spirit too,
comes to tell me what to do.

I believe that I can be
kind and good,
dear Lord, like thee.

The Prayers of the People *Please stand.*

We give thanks for what is good and pray for the Church, the world and our local community, the sick, those who need our prayers, and those who have died. After each intercession, you are invited to speak aloud the particular prayer of your heart.

Leader In our prayers today, we put all thoughts and worries and hopes into the hands of God. You may like to hold your own hands in front of you as you pray.

Leader We place into the hands of God our difficulties and frustrations, and our hopes and our worries about the future.

Leader We place into the hands of God the leaders of every nation, the poor of our own and every land, those who live in fear, and all who hold the lives of others in their hands.

Leader We place into the hands of God our families, our friends, and our neighbors, those who live and work in our city, those who are unemployed, and all who pass through this city on their travels.

Leader We place into the hands of God all those we know who are suffering from sickness or sorrow or any other challenges.

Leader We place into the hands of God every good thing we celebrate, all of our joy, and the things for which we are grateful, [especially _____].

Leader We place into the hands of God all those who have died, [especially _____].

All **Loving God, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our friend Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Birthday Blessing The Book of Common Prayer, page 830

All **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace The Book of Common Prayer, page 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Blessing of Pledge Cards and Giving Boxes

On this day we celebrate the progress of our Growing in Grace annual giving campaign and bless the pledges received to date along with the offering in Giving Boxes collected by children. As a sign and symbol of our life together, we invite you to lay a hand on the collected offerings as you approach to receive Communion.

Leader O God, we proclaim and share your Holy Name.

People **Our lives are shaped by your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader You are Creator of all we have and hold.

People **In thanksgiving, we return a portion to you today.**

Leader You call us to support the mission of your Church.

People **We pledge ourselves and our resources for your purposes.**

Leader Almighty God, you breathed in us a spirit of generosity. Mercifully accept these gifts toward the work of your Church. Help us fulfill what we have promised with grateful hearts, trusting in the knowledge of your loving care, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Holy Communion

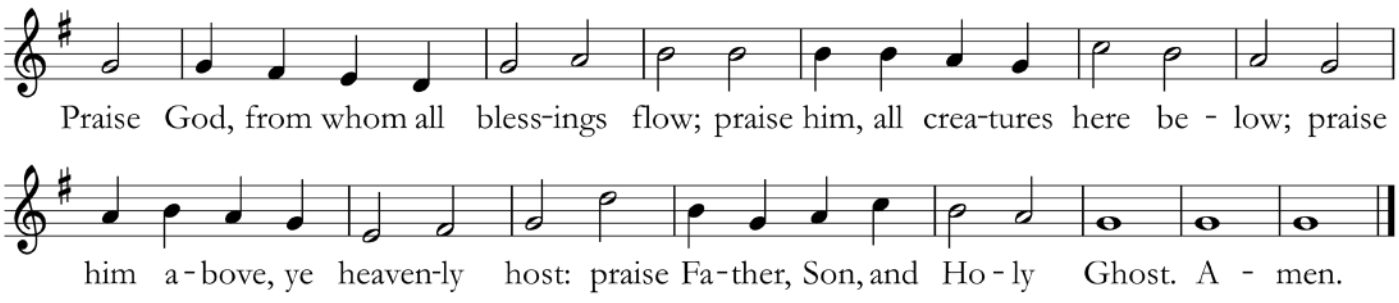
Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift online (use the QR code, or text STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.

Offertory Music

At the Presentation *Sung by all, standing.* *Old 100th*



The children are invited to follow the ushers forward to sit on the rug in front of the altar for the Great Thanksgiving.

The Great Thanksgiving A New Zealand Prayer Book

Celebrant The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

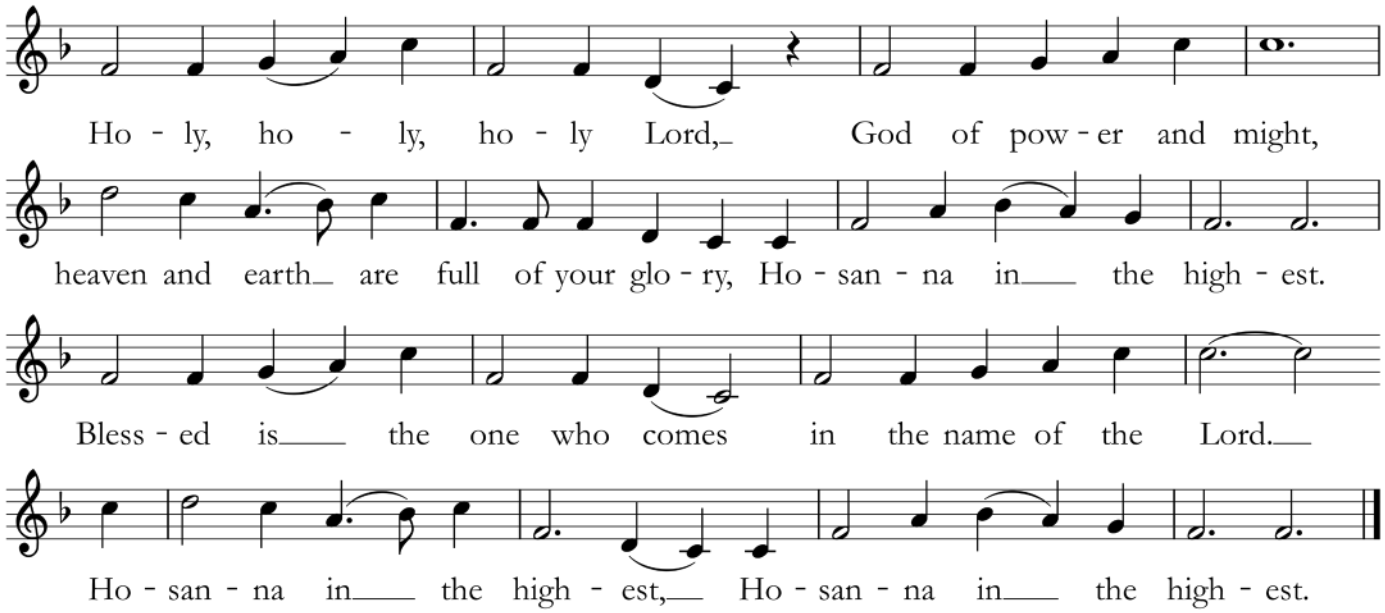
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you, singing:

Sanctus *Sung by all.* *Land of Rest*



Celebrant

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. 'This is my body,' he said, 'Do this, and know that I am with you." Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said 'This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you.' And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land, we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.

People **Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. AMEN.**

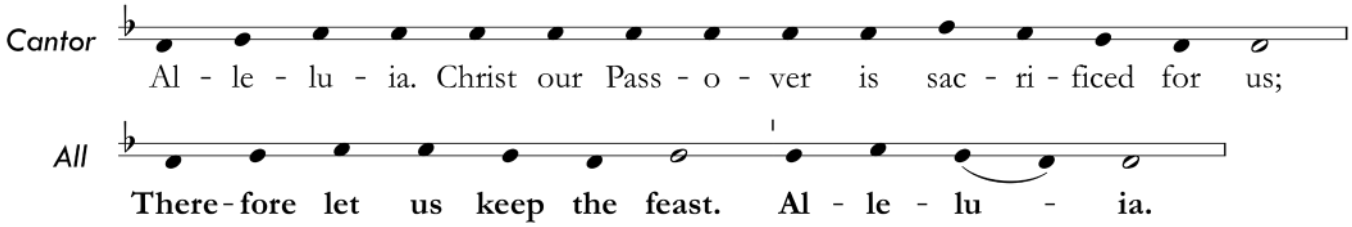
Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People The Book of Common Prayer, page 364

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept. Mason Martens, S-152



The Invitation

Celebrant

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

At the Communion of the People

Communion will be served at two stations, standing. All are welcome to come forward. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms on the front of your chest.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

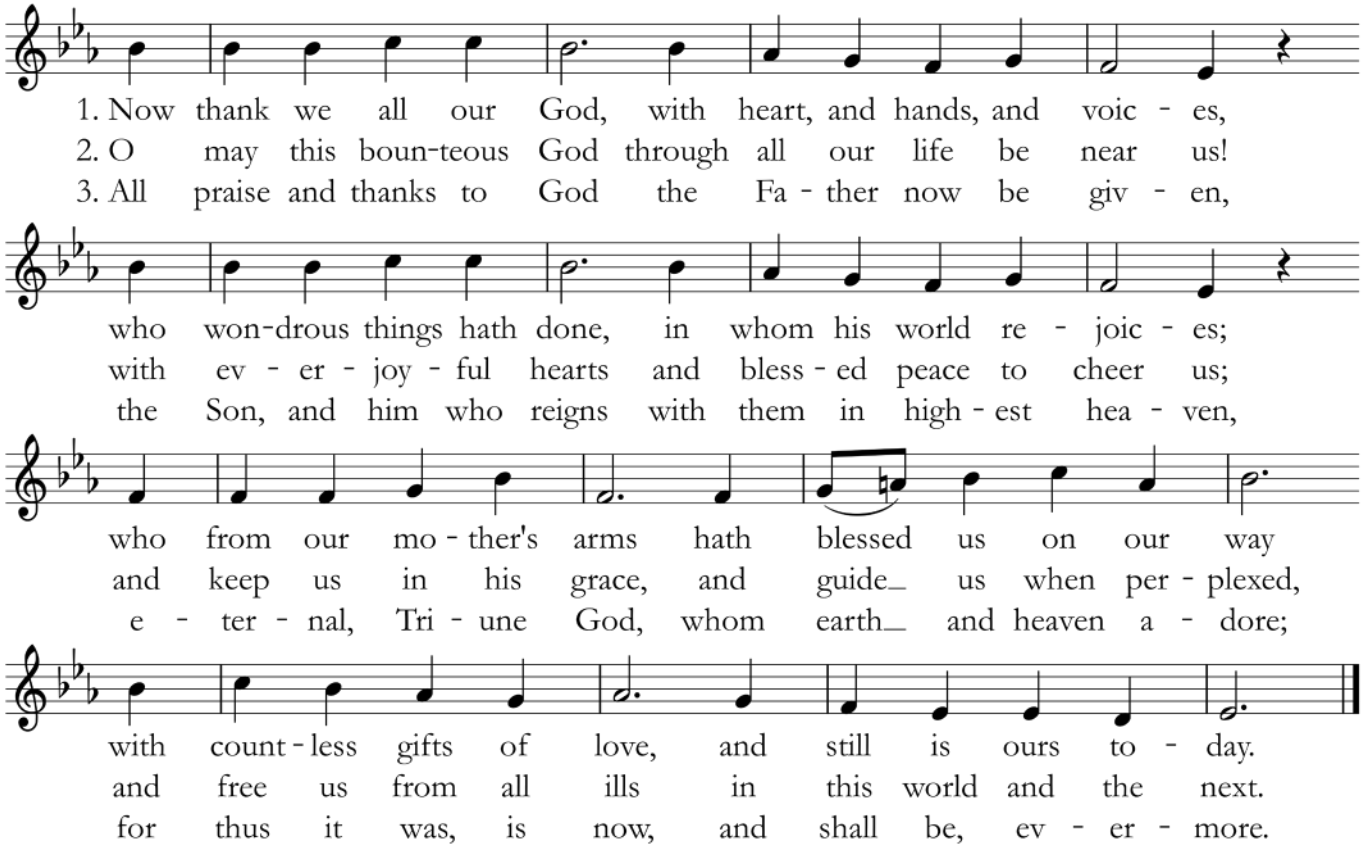
Let us pray. *Please stand.*

All **Lord God,**
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing Song Go now in peace *Sung by all, standing.* Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you,
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Hymn 397 Now thank we all our God *Sung by all.* *Nun danket alle Gott*



Dismissal The Book of Common Prayer, page 366

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Will Stanley
ASSISTING AND WONDERING: The Rev. Cate Anthony
MUSICIAN: Judy Fiske, *piano*

Reflection Questions

In our Gospel this morning, Jesus is teaching his friends about what the kingdom of God is like. He shares that when God reigns, people won't be divided by what they look like, where they're from, or what language they speak. More than that, in God's kingdom, everyone has exactly what they need to thrive. Jesus asks us to treat people who are poor, sick, and lonely the way we would treat God if God was poor, sick, or lonely.

Here are some questions for further discussion with your family:

- If you noticed God feeling poor, lonely, or sick, what would you do? What if you noticed a friend feeling that way?
- What do you need to thrive in God's kingdom?
- Our story talks about God's reign. Reign refers to how a royal person rules while in power. How do you think God rules God's kingdom?

The Parish Prayer List

Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week. To ask that a name be added to or removed from the prayer list, please contact Kitty Ball in the office, 804.288.2867 or **kball@ststephensRVA.org**.

Loretta Albertis, Kay Alley, Leilani Allwine, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Elizabeth Bannerman, Ben Barbot, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Linda Bennett, Christine Boeteger, Emma Bolduc, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Frances Caldwell, *Emily Canada,* John Caperton, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Michael Click, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, Shirley Crim, Lake Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Rhonda Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, *Gene Desvernine,* Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, William Everett, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Vishal Iab Gunti, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, David Harrell, Katie Hellebush, Trey Harrington, Dan Hill, Ron Hunt, Anna Hurdle, Ginny Moncure Jamerson, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Charles Johnson, Charleigh Jones, David Kean, Liz Woolford Keany, Jane Kelly, Judy Kidd, Linda Lewis, Eva Lindsay, Ashley Loughan, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Frank Maloney, Barbara Mathison, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Morgan McCall, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, Tina Millner, Susan Minyard, Ann Page Moore, Lee W. Mumford, Sally Neff, Shelby Nichols, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Pauline O'Neill, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ivan Peramas, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Lyn Presson, Alma Price, Jamey Price, Julia Putney-Brandt, Brick Quinn, Jennifer Reed, Luke Robertson, Kaley Rosenthal, Aleta Richards, Emily Robinson, Ryan Rohadfox, David Ruffin and family, Sallie, Bette Shiflett, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Aaron Spicer, Margie Spicer, Regena Stith, Beth Thomas, Margaret Thompson, Crystal Vines, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Heather Walker, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Steve Wilson, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Bill Wright, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life,** especially for *the ordination of Ethan Betts White to the Sacred Order of Priests.* **For those who have died,** especially *Carol Ann Capehart.* **For those expecting a child,** especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter, and Mason and Claire Mairead. **For our missionaries,** Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, and the people they serve in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer,** we pray for the *Church of England.* **For ReWork Richmond. For an end to gun violence. For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Nigeria, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. **For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service:** CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn, and Caroline Finn.

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