

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 •

## Transfiguration of Our Lord



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Before You, Lord, We Bow.* ..... Darwall's 148th

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

P Rejoice in this good news: In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *Oh, Wondrous Image . . . . . Stand & Sing*



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by  
 5 O Fa - ther, with the\_e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the  
 car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the  
 deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be  
 this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful  
 Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!  
 Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."  
 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.  
 by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

## GREETING

**P** Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

# KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. Cantor

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen

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## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

I Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## SALUTATION

*Presider:*                      *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## FIRST READING

## Exodus 34:29-35

A reading from the thirty fourth chapter of Exodus.

*Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.*

<sup>29</sup>Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

A reading from the third and fourth chapter of second Corinthians.

*In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

<sup>12</sup>Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup>but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into

the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

# **GOSPEL VERSE.** ..... *All Stand & Sing*

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 9:28-43a**

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his

companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. <sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup>While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43a</sup>And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

P     The gospel of the Lord.  
C     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated.*

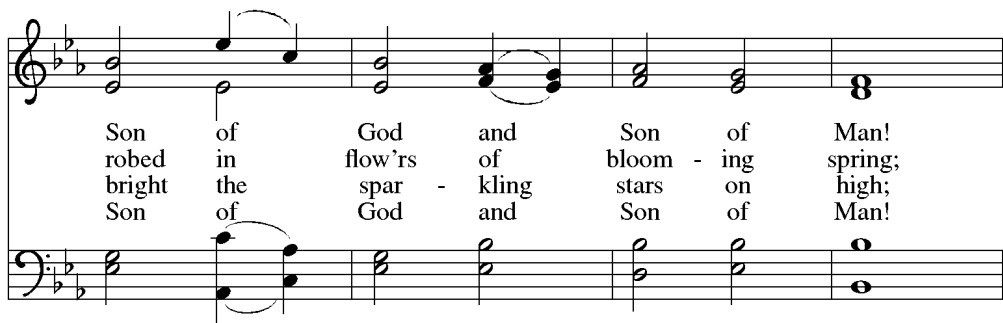
SERMON ..... Pastor Danielle Denise  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*



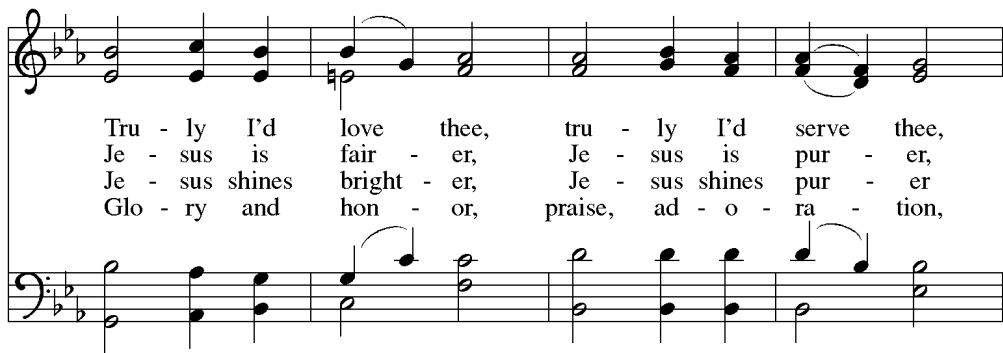
# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Beautiful Savior* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



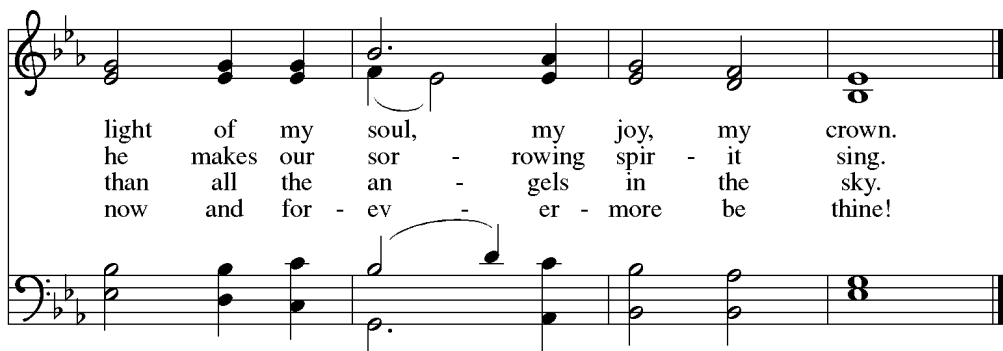
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## BLESSING OF OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

**“Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community,  
welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond.”**

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God’s blessing as we gather to bless this new purpose statement for Holy Comforter to the praise and glory of God.

### **Romans 12:1-5**

**12** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.**

**You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.**

**We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen.**

**We give you thanks for calling us your own and joining us to your work to share the Gospel in word and deed in the world. We lift to you our new purpose statement that will guide our work in your name here at Holy Comforter.**

“Journeying”

You call us into community with one another, that our lives of faith be filled with your love and support through our sisters and brothers in Christ. Inspire in us a faith that rejoices in others, engages them where they are, and moves us to grow in you.

### “Through Faith”

Our faith is grounded in the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God. Our entire lives are an extension of the love and grace poured out on us, and every relationship an opportunity to love as an extension of God’s love. Keep our feet grounded in our faith as we reach out to make your kingdom known in the world.

### “In a Joyful”

Your Grace is woven throughout our lives, so that even in times of struggle we can have joy in you. May that joy permeate through our lives, through our worship, through our love for each other, and through our service to your world.

### “Safe community”

You gather a people from a variety of faith and life experiences. Form us to be a community that welcomes and celebrates your people wherever they are in their lives and faith. May we be a community that gives people a safe place to wrestle with their faith.

### “Welcoming”

The stranger is simply a sibling in Christ we have yet to meet. Give us eyes to see your image in all those we meet, to celebrate the beauty you create in all people, and form us to be a community that builds relationships and bridges divides.

### “And serving”

Give us servant hearts, following the example of Christ who washed his disciples’ feet, to be sent into the world in humble service to others. Grow in us a compassion to feed the hungry, lift up the poor, comfort and care for the sick, and welcome the stranger.

### “Belmont”

You call us to love our neighbor. Teach us to love our neighbors in Belmont, to see your face in them and to be your hands for them. May our life together as your disciples overflow to make your kingdom known to them.

### “And Beyond”

All that you have made you call good. May we love as you love, widely and unconditionally. Give us your heart for the world, that we may learn to love the whole of your Creation, all that you have made, and celebrate the diverse beauty in it.

We give you thanks, O God, as we claim and bless this new purpose statement to your glory and praise. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

Transform us by your greatness, O God. Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people. Make us agents of change, confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

The mountains and valleys sing your praise. Dazzle us with your presence in every landscape: bluffs built by ancient glaciers, canyons carved by flowing rivers, flat horizons with uninterrupted views, and sands shaped by ocean tides. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You love justice and establish equity. Strengthen leaders of local governments, community nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns. Bless them with gifts of integrity, creativity, and sound conscience. Build up safe and joyful communities where all people may thrive. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Heal those who are in distress. Give patience to those waiting for answers. Grant hope to those who have reached the limits of treatment. Give compassionate hearts to those who accompany loved ones through illness and uncertainty. We Pray especially for.... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Today we shout alleluia from the mountaintop; this week we enter the wilderness of Lent. Bless all who prepare and lead us in worship during this change of season: pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who contribute to our worship life. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are they who listened to Christ's voice in this life and now rest with him. Transform us from glory into glory, and give us your peace, that we do not lose heart. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Alleluia!* ..... Church Choir

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Presider:' and contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with'. The second staff is labeled 'Congregation:' and contains the lyrics 'you. Lift up your hearts. We'. The third staff is labeled 'Presider:' and contains the lyrics 'lift them to the Lord. Let us give'. The fourth staff is labeled 'Congregation:' and contains the lyrics 'thanks to the Lord our God. It is'. The fifth staff contains the lyrics 'right to give God thanks and praise.' and ends with a double bar line.

*Presider:* The Lord be with you. And al - so with

*Congregation:* you. Lift up your hearts. We

*Presider:* lift them to the Lord. Let us give

*Congregation:* thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a key signature change to two sharps (F#, C#). The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

*Congregation:*  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the  
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is  
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.  
A - men.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is marked 'Congregation:' and has a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a key signature change to two sharps (F#, C#). The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**



## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

**C** Thanks be to God.



# LAMB OF GOD.....All Sing

*Congregation:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

*Congregation:*



world:

have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*During communion the congregation will be invited forward by rows, starting in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You will then return to your seat where you may briefly remove your mask to eat and drink, and then quickly replace it. Your cups may be placed in the small receptacle on the aisle side of each pew.*

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## BLESSING

P God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ☩ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

C Amen.

## SENDING

A Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news

C Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *Tuba Tune D Major*. . . . . C.S. Lang

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\*Special thanks to our Church Choir for their leadership, and to resident flutist, Julia Gunter

\* A special thanks to our Lector, Julia Gunter

\* The Flowers are given by Rianna Nance in memory of Theron Nance



# Holy Doodles



**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Sandra Askey, Office Manager