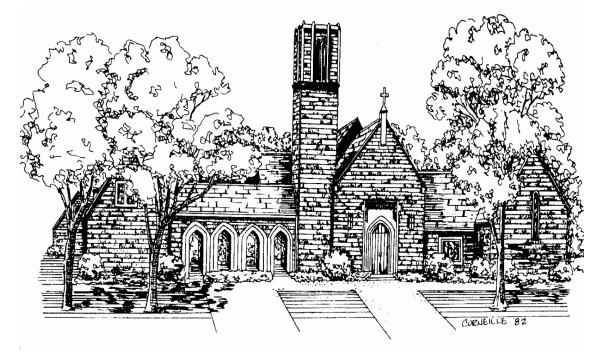
Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.



St. Mary's: Serving with JOY!

The mission of St. Mary's Episcopal Church is to bear God's Good News through joyful worship, Christ-centered teaching, compassionate care, and intentional relationships.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Eve December 24, 2020 4:00 p.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite 2

Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church! Welcome back to Sunday morning indoor worship!

In these extra-ordinary times, St. Mary's offers three Sunday morning worship opportunities of Holy Eucharist. One is an online pre-recorded liturgy of the Rite 2 service (Spiritual Communion), posted to our Facebook and YouTube platforms. The others are indoor public liturgies (Rite 1 at 8am in the Chapel and Rite 2 at 9:30am in the large church), following the parameters outlined in Fr. Tom's Pastoral Letter of October 21 and in accordance with current state Executive Orders and guidelines from the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina.

For worshipers gathering in person, we thank you for taking seriously the measures that are in place that allow us to gather safely, especially wearing face coverings, observing six feet of physical distancing between different households, and refraining from congregational singing. These practices will make our time together safer and are appreciated as signs of love for one another.

You may also wish to begin the practice of bringing with you your own copy of the Book of Common Prayer and Bible to incorporate into your worship while at St. Mary's Church and beyond. If you don't have either, please speak with the clergy - we'd love to help!

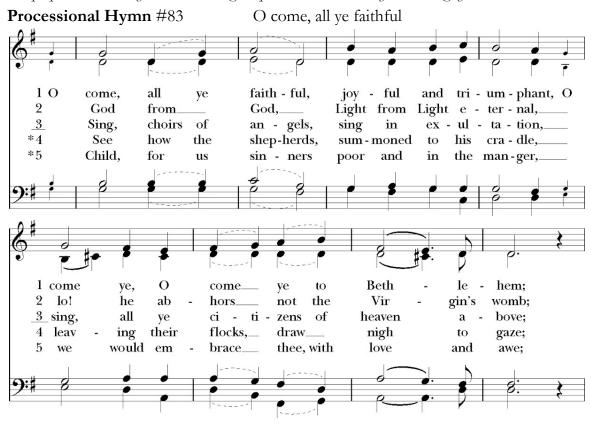
All page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer.

SERVERS IN THIS LITURGY:

Celebrant: Rob Skirving, 8th Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina Preacher: Tom Warren Organist: Sharon Veitch Vocal Soloist: Marcus Jones Strings: Blue Sands Entertainment String Quartet Acolytes: Sydney Herlong & Hannah Herlong Advent Wreath Lectors: Church Youth (David Hengst lighting the candle) Lector: Stephen Hill Ushers/Greeters: Kevin Zoltek, Harry Wooten, Mark Hollar

Prelude Greeting & Announcements Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

The people stand as they are able during the procession while the hymn is sung by the soloist.





born this happy morning Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade

CelebrantBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Music: Adeste fideles

Celebrant

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.

Celebrant	Lord, have mercy.
People	Christ, have mercy.
Celebrant	Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

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

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Lessons

All may be seated for the readings

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

[9:2-7] The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Lector People **Thanks be to God.** The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; *

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

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Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the LORD who made the heavens. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary! Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the LORD honor and power. Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him. Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! * he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; * let the field be joyful and all that is therein. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth. A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to Titus: When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,

Lector

[2:11-14] not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been

justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

All stand as they are able.GospelerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All may be seated. **The Sermon**

All stand as they are able. **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he

Father Tom

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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.

All stand as they are able.

The Prayers of the People

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Sisters and Brothers in Christ, the world's deep night is shattered by the glorious light of God's new day. Formed in the wonder of God's love, we embrace the divine gifts of grace and peace given in the child born for us, as one of us. Let us pray for the just fulfillment of the hopes and needs of all as with the angels we proclaim: Glory to God in the highest,

People and peace to all people of good will.

Intercessor Giver of Life, in the brightness of this new dawn empower us to restore your Creation, that the universe may praise your name and all creatures may call you blessed. Glory to God in the highest,

People and peace to all people of good will.

Intercessor Author of Redemption, in Jesus you have come to dwell in a world yearning to be reconciled to you. Grant that your Church may be a gift of your transforming and healing love for the world. Glory to God in the highest,

People and peace to all people of good will.

Intercessor Source of all Mercy, in Jesus you give us the Prince of Peace. Deliver all those caught in the darkness of war, poverty, and oppression. Guide us in the way of peace that we may pursue our high calling for a just and merciful world. Glory to God in the highest,

People and peace to all people of good will.

Intercessor God of humble birth, in a lowly manger rests the Incarnation of your love for the poor, the sick, the homeless, the friendless, and the needy. May we ever be generous bearers of your loving-kindness that all may share in the joy of the Nativity. Glory to God in the highest,

People and peace to all people of good will.

Intercessor God of grace and comfort, you came to earth in human flesh and in human time that all might know the consolation of your eternal presence.

Draw near to the dying and to those who mourn that sorrow may be turned to joy and weeping into eternal song. Glory to God in the highest,

People and peace to all people of good will.

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Prayers may be lifted aloud or in the silence of our hearts at this time.

Celebrant Holy God, we lay our hearts in the straw of the stable trusting in the promise of salvation made known to us in Jesus Christ, child of Mary, our brother, and our Redeemer. Fill us with wonder and joy this Christmastide and so transform our lives that peace and concord, hope and love may be born in us now and always. *Amen.*

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

The Offertory

A collection basin is located at the entrance of the church where worshippers may, at their desired time, place offerings for Christ and His church.

Offertory Anthem

"O Holy Night"

Marcus Jones

THE HOLY COMMUNION

All stand as they are able.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

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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.

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:

**Holy, **Holy, **Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people, in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."**

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."**

Therefore according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Family, and all yous saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ****AMEN.**

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.

**Indicates times when the Sanctus bells are rung by the acolyte.

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Ministration of Communion

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

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 baptized Christians are welcome to share in the banquet of the Lord's Supper. Please speak to the clergy if you would like to learn more about baptism and following Jesus as a baptized Christian. During this time, communion is shared in one kind (bread only). Anglican eucharistic theology has consistently taught that Christ is truly and fully present in both, the bread and the wine of communion. The full benefits of communion are available to the faithful in extra-ordinary circumstances when sharing both the bread and wine are not possible.

To receive communion, please stand where you are and the clergy will bring communion to you. Please wait until the clergy has moved beyond six feet from you before adjusting your face covering to consume the bread.

If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing at this time, please stand and as the clergy draws near, cross your arms across your chest to indicate your intention.

Please be seated after you have received communion or a blessing so the clergy can easily tell who still desires to receive communion or a blessing.

For those not wishing to receive communion, you are invited to pray this prayer of Spiritual Communion, adapted from the Armed Forces Prayer Book.

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I can not now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live and die in your love. Amen.

Communion Hymns

#109

The First Nowell

#115	What child is this, who laid at rest
#79	O little town of Bethlehem
#87	Hark the herald angels sing

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

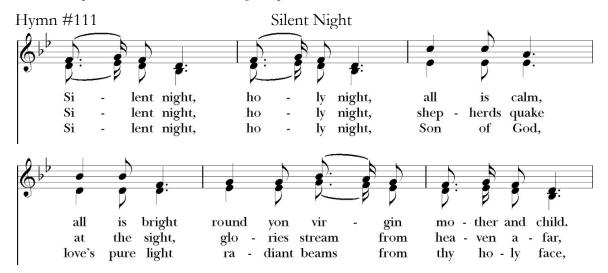
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness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

A Christmas Blessing

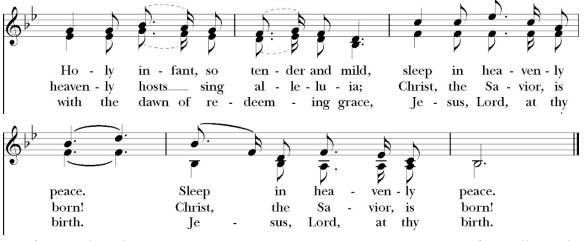
May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the good news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Music

During the singing of "Silent Night" you will be invited to receive the Light of Christ. The acolytes will begin by lighting from the Christ Candle and sharing the light with the altar party and then the congregation until everyone's candle is lit. <u>Please be extremely careful</u> with the candles in order to avoid burns from the flame or wax. Lit candles should be held in the upright position. While you are welcome to take the candle home with you, if you'd like to leave it at the church, please leave them in the basket as you depart.



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Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: Stille Nacht

Dismissal

Celebrant	Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People	Thanks be to God.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In Loving Memory Of:

Joe Stark

Our Parents

Our Parents Mr. and Mrs. William C. Bizzell Mr. and Mrs. Evan S. Setzer

Lawrence Callender

Peter Wise Darst

Andy Greene

Loved Ones

Keel Cooper

Our Parents

By:

Dr. and Mrs. Jay Barker Eleanor and Charles Beasley Suzanne and Rob Bizzell

Dolores Callender Becky, David, Michael and Family The Darst Family Rit and Jay Derby Betty and Don DeVeau Susan and Gerry Fox

Harley and Pauline Gilmore Charles and Virginia Kelley Sidney B. Gilmore Andy Greene Cora and Herman Harper Gaye and Howard Waldrop Ronnie Holton Brandon Holton Brandon Holton Fleming Jeffress Lea Jeffress Taft and Samia Courie Raymond T. Courie Eleanor Herring Blake Joe Stark Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Sams Jane Ann Walter Dr. Bill Sumner

The Faithful Departed of St. Mary's in 2020

All Our Loved Ones

In Honor or Thanksgiving of:

Our Children and Grandchildren

Our Children and Grandchildren Beth and Kyle Saylors, Caroline and Ellie Maggie Bizzell

Loved Ones

Our Children and Grandchildren

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Gilmore

Beth and Skip Greene Carol and Earl Harper

Bonnie Holton Bonnie Holton Althea and Randy Holton Eleanor Jeffress and Family Eleanor Jeffress and Family Ramona C. Kirkman

Anne, Stuart, and Anne Grayson Lindley Rebekah, Nick and Alex Stark Allyson B. Sugg

Sherry and Todd Tanner Lyn and Chuck Horney Suzanne Sumner and Wyatt Mangum Kathryn Horney and Jude Tanner

Tom & Holly Warren

Tempe and Carl Younger

<u>By:</u>

Eleanor and Charles Beasley Suzanne and Rob Bizzell

> Dolores Callender Betty and Don DeVeau

Robyn A. Godfrey Harriet and Edward Headley Rita Cosey The loving and supportive people of St. Mary's Liz Hengst The Ministry and Staff at St. Mary's Church Our Children and Grandchildren Father Tom & family and the Altar Guild The loving and supportive people of St. Mary's The Newly Baptized & Confirmed of St. Mary's in 2020

Jim Godfrey Karylen Headley

Lori Kelly Diane Poole Sylvia and Walt Poole Dr. and Mrs. Phil Sanders Dianne and Hyman Stadiem Sherry Tanner Tom & Holly Warren

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The wreaths and swag above the front doors of the church are given this season by Dr. and Mrs. Rupert Jilcott, III, in loving memory of their parents, Frank and Louise Garriss and Shorty and Ruth Jilcott.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME BISHOP SKIRVING - We are grateful for Bishop Skirving's ministry with us this Christmas Eve!

THANK YOU: A special thank you to all who share their gifts of ministry at St. Mary's Church, including a heartfelt thanks to the Altar Guild and everyone who played a part in the beautiful decorations at the church for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MORNING: Mark Christmas Day with a joyful pajama-friendly online time of praise and prayer via Zoom at 10:30am. The Zoom link was shared via email on Dec 22. Please email Fr. Tom if you would like the link to this gathering.

LESSONS AND CAROLS: St. Mary's will hold a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols during the 9:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 27th. Join us in the beautiful retelling of the Good News of the Christmas Season now that it is here!

2020 YEAR-END GIVING: The financial books of St. Mary's Church will close at the afternoon of Thursday, December 31st. Please complete your pledge and other giving for 2020 by this time.

THE CHURCH OFFICE of St. Mary's Church will be closed December 25, 28, and January 1st, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. The office staff would like to extend warm wishes for a blessed New Year to you and your families!

ST. MARY'S WALKING GROUPS - Whether it is a journey to get fit, a journey to share fellowship, or a "Journey Through East Carolina," we are excited to offer safe walking groups to fit any schedule. We hope you will check out any (or all!!) of these walking times...ALL are welcome!

- Tuesdays at 9:15 am meet at St. Mary's for a walk hosted by our ECW;
- Wednesdays at 4:30pm all ages (animals too) meet @ St. Mary's for a 30-min walk
- Fridays at 6:45 am meet at St. Mary's and join others for 45 minute walk;
- Sundays at 2pm join others for a 30 minute walk at a slower pace; this group will meet at St. Mary's and possibly other locations as announced.

ST. MARY'S BLOOD DRIVE - St. Mary's will host a Blood Drive on **Monday**, **December 28th, Noon-4pm in Moseley Hall**. Donors will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. As a gift, donors will receive a long-sleeve Red Cross t-shirt while supplies last. Walk-ins are always welcome but reservations are preferred - make yours at www.redcrossblood.org

ECW FAITH FRIENDS - Will you help St. Mary's be intentional about staying connected? Consider joining FAITH FRIENDS, a group of ECW women who are willing to make intentional personal connections by checking in on an assigned church member via short chats, doorstep visits, letters, and/or surprise gifts. Please contact Laury Sargeant by email at jsarg4@suddenlink.net or Audra Haddad by email at 5haddad@suddenlink.net who will in turn contact you to assign a friend.

BOAR'S HEAD & YULE LOG FESTIVAL - It is with deep sadness that we will not be able to celebrate the Boar's Head Festival this year. We pray that over the next year, we will discover that it will be possible to fill the church again to celebrate this great Epiphany celebration. Please join us in this prayer and keep an ear open for familiar Boar's Head Festival tunes in our worship during the Christmas season.

Tom Warren Rector
Sharon VeitchOrganist/Choirmaster
Jo ParrottSenior Warden
Jimmy BallardJunior Warden
Billy PageTreasurer
Whitney GradyClerk of the Vestry
Lori KellyParish Administrator
Liz HengstYouth/Families Ministry Coordinator
Sherry TannerCommunications Director
Jim GodfreyMary's Kitchen Director
Cyndi RaffertyAltar Guild Chair
Laury SargeantECW President

Parish Vestry		
2020	2021	
Jess Edwards	Jimmy Ballard	
Gerry Fox	Sam Gilmore	
Whitney Grady	Jessica Shimer	
Jo Parrott	Stuart Stroud	

2022 John John Scott Turik Dee Warner Harry Wooten