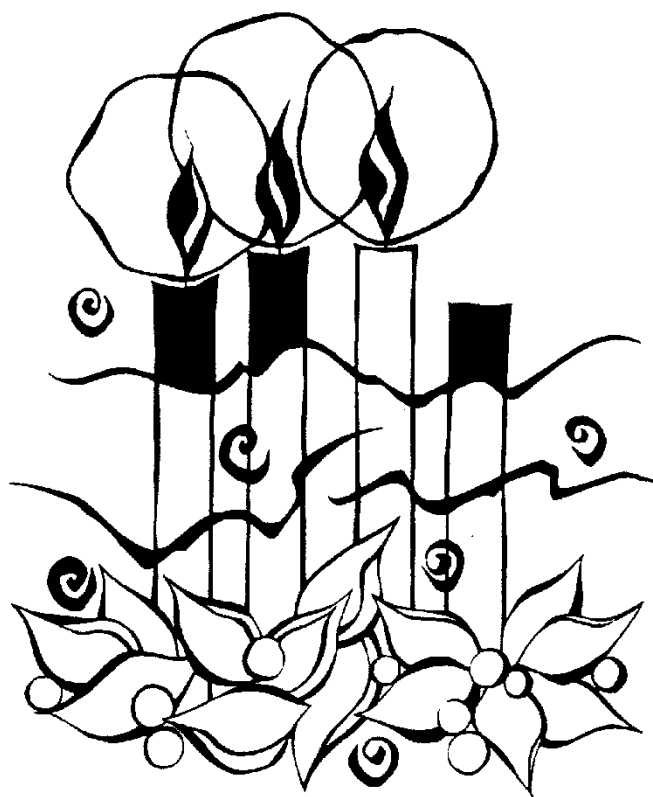


The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving
God + Neighbor

*204 Monument Road
Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512
(508) 255-0433*

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Silence Before Worship in Advent

During these four Sundays prior to Christmas, we invite you to join us in maintaining silence in church from about 9:50 am when choir practice ends and the candles are lit. Warmly invited but never “enforced,” silence isn’t absolute “absence of noise” as much as it is refraining from conversation and making room for our prayer. Thank you for exploring this new mode with us. We’ll have an opportunity to reflect on it together in the new year.

“O” Antiphon Introit

O Rex Gentium

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone who makes both walls one: come and save humankind whom you formed of clay.

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Word of God

The Opening Hymn 66 Come, thou long expected Jesus

Stuttgart

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

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

The Collect of the Day

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lessons

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (35:1-10)

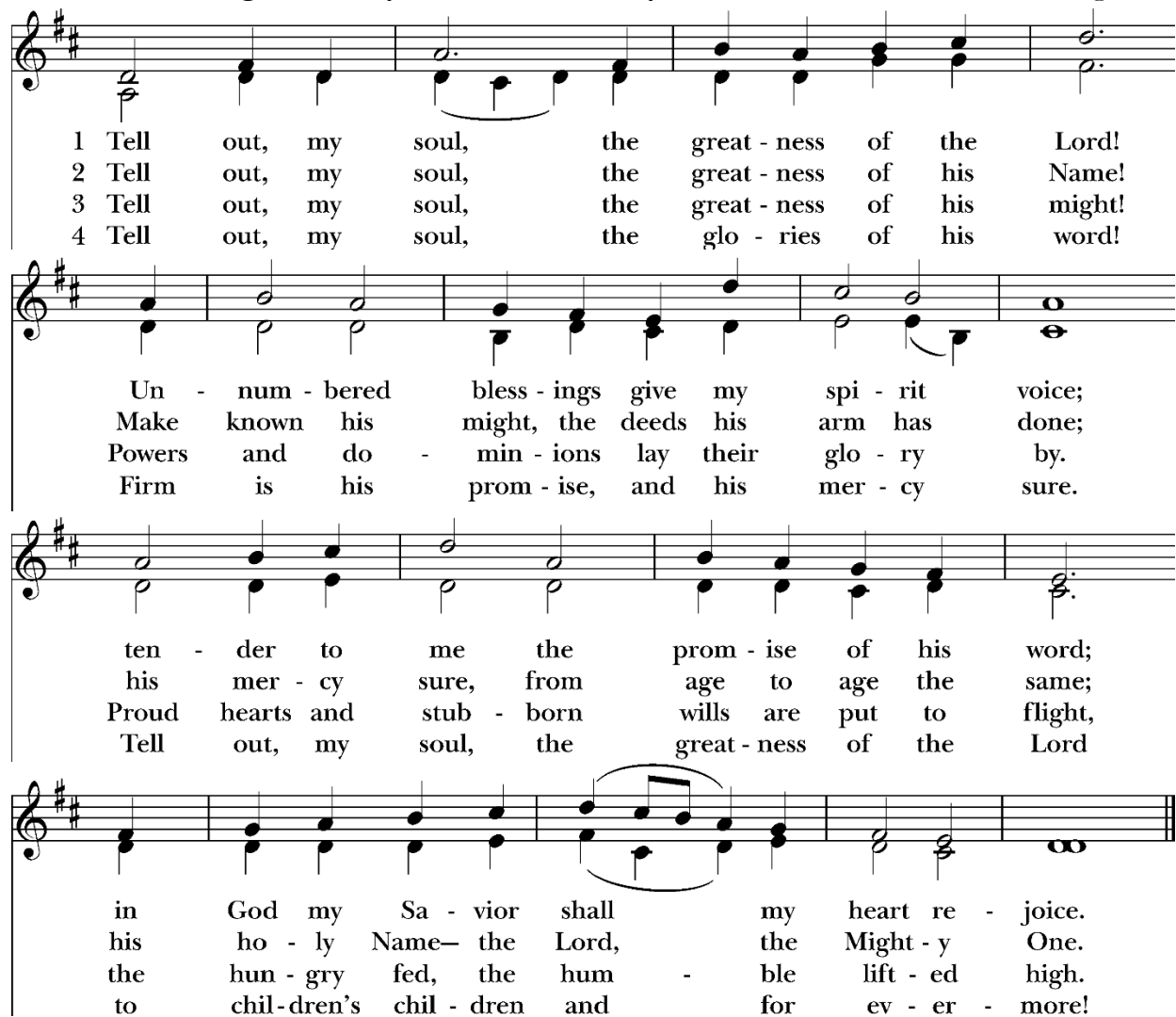
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Canticle: The Magnificat Hymn 437 Tell out, my soul

Birmingham



1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by;
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
 his ho - ly Name—the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

A reading from the Letter of James (5:7-10)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and gospel.

The Sequence Hymn WLP 722 (green hymnal) The desert shall rejoice

Sterling

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

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Please stand as you are able for the Creed.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

You may continue to stand or sit or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God, responding “hear our prayer.”

Silence

O God who makes the desert to rejoice and blossom and transforms the thirsty ground into springs of water; revive in us your gifts of hope, peace and joy, that as your people we may help to make a weary world new. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That we may discern your word in every sound, your power in every human embrace and your love in every gesture of kindness. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That we may hold fast to the hope that your Advent heralds peace. We pray for healing from violence in our own nation and across your world in any region torn apart by war and civil unrest: Ukraine and Russia, Haiti, Sudan and South Sudan. We pray for the endurance of peace between Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For Sean our presiding bishop, and Julia our bishop; and for all people whose ministries show forth your love and healing power. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for: Christ Church, St. Bartholomew's Church; St. James' Church; and St. Peter's Church, all from Cambridge and the Diocesan Disciplinary Board. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We remember especially those who have asked for our prayers: Dick Anderson, Robert Blanchet, Terese Brown, Sally Drew, Bill & Judy Gardiner, Joan Kirkby, Barbara & Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, John, Lauren, Linnea, Pat and those we name before you now.

Silence

The People add their own petitions silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. For families, friends, and neighbors, and for all worshipping with us today, here and in their own homes. In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for the community of the Terraces as its residents prepare to move to new homes.

Silence

The People add their own thanksgivings silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died including Lucille Assorto and Nancy McCarthy, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People add their own petitions silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

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

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

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide,
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the first-born of creation.
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited his own, and by his death for sin atoned,
to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of his appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased
and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

Hymn 72 Hark! the glad sound!

Richmond

1. Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

pro - mised long; let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, and
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal ar - ches ring with

ev - every voice a song.
thy be - lov - ed Name.

As the offering is presented, please stand as you are able.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3 from *Enriching Our Worship*

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 our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey.

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing together:

Sanctus S-124

Hurd

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.

You may remain standing, kneel or sit for the remainder of the Eucharistic prayer as your personal piety guides you.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all. Your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations. You delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us. Through Jesus Christ, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory intended for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and forever. Amen.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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.

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,

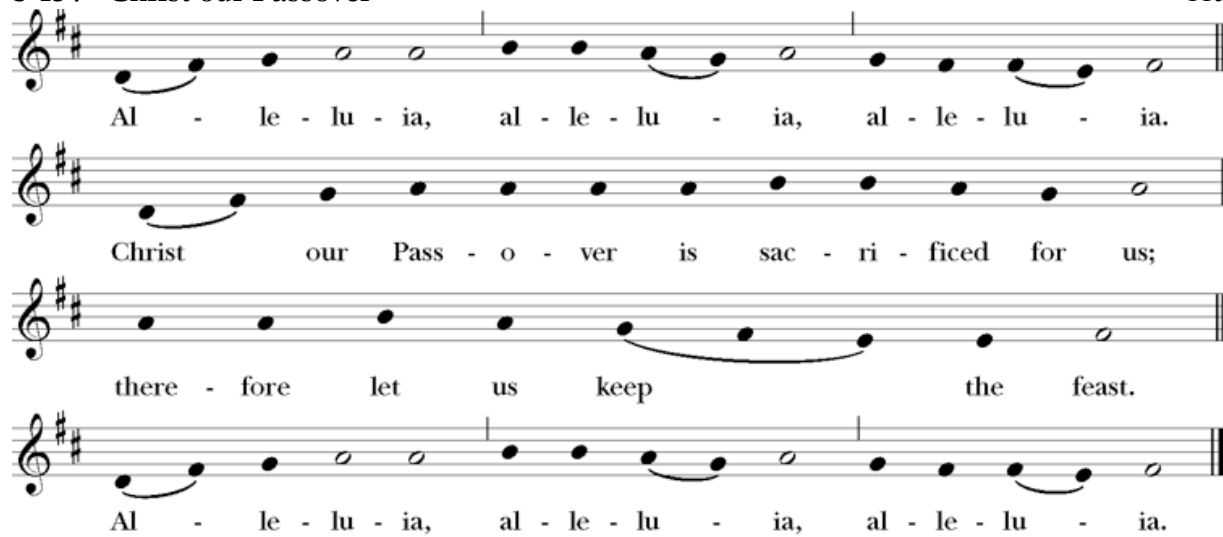
and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

S-154 Christ our Passover

Hurd



The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

We offer the following prayer each week in solidarity with those viewing from home as well as those receiving communion at this time at The Terraces (Orleans) thanks to our Eucharistic minister team.

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Creator and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available; simply make your needs known to the person serving you. If you wish a blessing instead of the elements, cross your arms over your chest as the priest approaches you.

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 60 Creator of the stars of night

Conditor alme siderum

Hymn LEVAS 14 Soon and very soon

Andrae Crouch

The Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

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

The Sending *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we 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, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

The Advent Blessing

May the God who stoops to become incarnate grant us the grace to remember that the world is too broken for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. **Amen.**

May God take our minds and think through them, take our lips and speak through them, and take our hands and work through them. **Amen.**

May God stir our hearts with yearning for the coming kingdom and open our ears to the voices of the prophets. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains us, be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 74 Blest be the King

Valet will ich dir geben

The Sung Dismissal

Palestrina/Ledger

Celebrant Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed...

Choir Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you. *(refrain)*

Celebrant Stand ye still and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord... *(refrain)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost... *(refrain)*

The Postlude

Come now, Savior of the Nations

arr. Paul Manz

Celebrant and Preacher

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Minister of Music

Joan Kirchner

Eucharistic Ministers

Celia Calhoun, Priscilla Isner

Readers

Pia MacKenzie, Carol Baffi-Dugan, Sarah Gregory

Ushers

Mary Hammatt, John Harter

Altar Guild

Barbara Wahlquist

Audio/Video

Jen Marlin

The Terraces

Donna Bailey

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Please connect to: “CHS_Hearing” and the Password is: CHSOrleans. This is a case sensitive password.