



**CHRIST  
CHURCH**  
EPISCOPAL

*Transforming lives together,  
through the love of God, in Christ.*

**HOLY EUCHARIST: CONTEMPLATIVE**

*The Second Sunday of Easter*

• April 12, 2026 • 5:00 p.m. • Church •

## Passing the Torch: The Acolyte Ministry Continues



*“Serving brings fulfillment, happiness, and a sense of caring.”*

These words from **Marianne Palmer** capture the heart of ministry at Christ Church—and especially the spirit of the acolyte ministry she faithfully led for more than 20 years.

As Youth Acolyte Ministry Leader, Marianne guided generations of young people, helping them grow in confidence and develop leadership skills. “I enjoyed being with the children during their years of growth,” she shared, “and providing opportunities to build confidence and leadership skills.” Today, many of those former acolytes are adults with families of their own—a testament to her lasting impact.

Now, that legacy continues with **Melissa Kurz Johnson (Mel)**, who steps into leadership with gratitude and a sense of calling.

Mel’s connection to this ministry began years ago. Growing up in the Episcopal Church, she served as an acolyte throughout middle and high school and now serves as a Eucharistic Minister.



“Marianne has done an amazing job with this ministry for many years,” Mel shares. “I know I have big shoes to fill.”

“I love being a part of the service and feel this is such an important aspect of worship,” she says. “Getting our children involved and understanding how the Eucharist works helps ensure that long-term connection to the Church.”

The acolyte ministry is open to middle and high school students who feel called to serve. Acolytes typically serve one to two times per month and receive training so they can participate with confidence. Along the way, they gain a deeper appreciation for worship, earn service hours, and become part of a meaningful community.

“My hope,” Mel says, “is to grow this into a fun group of kids who enjoy serving together.”

Rooted in Marianne’s legacy, this ministry continues to invite the next generation to serve, belong, and grow at the heart of worship.

*Welcome to Christ Church Ponte Vedra Beach! We are delighted to have you worship with us.  
In order to prepare for this service, we ask that you silence your phone. Thank you!*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Silence for Prayer

*This contemplative service is preceded by a period of silence at 4:50 p.m.*

### Prelude

*Intrumental music*

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

### Openning Sentences

*Reader* Living God, who came to your world and entered human pain,  
Come and be in every painful place in our lives,

**People** **In every painful place in our world, today.**

Living God, who worked in the secret darkness  
To raise Christ from the grave,  
Come and work in every secret, dark place in our lives,  
**In every secret, dark place of our world, today.**

Living God, who sent women out to proclaim the resurrection  
to the frightened, imprisoned disciples,  
Come and empower us in every frightened, imprisoned place in our lives,  
**In every frightened, imprisoned place in our world, today.**

Living God, Risen Son, Easter God:  
Come and make us your living Church, your risen Church,  
your Easter Church,  
**Today and every day.**

### First Hymn

*Good Christians All, Rejoice*

Cyril Alington

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world, glad news, we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Sing songs of praise along his way;  
Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we, in songs of victory, that love, that life, which cannot die,  
And sing, with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To God, the Father, God, the Son, to God, the Spirit, always One,  
We sing for life, in us, begun: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## **Prayer for the Evening**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Lord, when our success and comfort make us forget those who suffer: Show us your hands and your side. Lord, when we are confused, lost, and bewildered: Grant us your peace and send us out in confidence to do your will in the world. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Gospel**

*Leader* A reading from the Gospel according to John

20:19-31

**People** **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest!**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Leader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

*One minute of silence follows.*

## **Reflection**

*The Reverened Wendy Billingslea*

*A reflection is essentially based on a personal experience and is a great way to share what God is doing in our lives. When we listen to what God is doing in our brothers' and sisters' lives, we are likely to grow in greater awareness of how God works in our own lives.*

*One minute of silence follows.*

## **Music for Meditation**

*You may stand or kneel.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Reader* Alleluia! What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us confidently bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, saying: Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed.

God of life, in gratitude and great joy we laud you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. On this season give us hope, for Christ is risen:

**People** **Christ is risen indeed.**

On this season which brings joy to all Christian believers, may we commit ourselves to work toward the unity of the church, that Christ's body may be one, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; for all our brothers and sisters,

*People may add their own prayers either silently or aloud.*

That death may have no more power over us, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears,

*People may add their own prayers either silently or aloud.*

for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

May we be one in faith with all who have died in Christ, for our life is hid with Christ in God; for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death, and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Candlelighting**

*We continue our prayers through the lighting of the votive candles as a symbol of our love and concern for others. During the instrumental music, you are welcome to light a single candle as a symbol of your prayers.*

*Candles are located at the front of the main aisle to the left and right.*

*Please stand.*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* Jesus says: My Peace I give to you. Do not be afraid. I call you my friend.  
Abide in my love. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*To make an offering online visit  
[ccpvb.org/give](http://ccpvb.org/give) or scan this code.  
Thank you for your support.*



# **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory** *There's Something About That Name* William & Gloria Gaither

*Please stand.*

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**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 God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant continues*

O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

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, ho - san - na, ho -  
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est!

*Celebrant continues*

We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness. Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them, saying:

*All together*

**“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

So, too, after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them, saying:

*All together*

**“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”**

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All together*

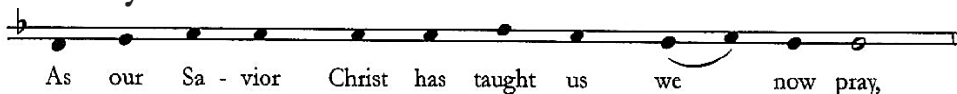
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant continues*

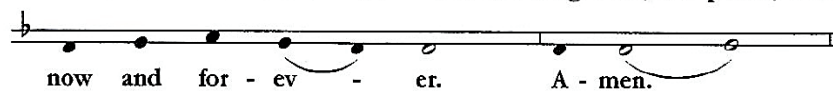
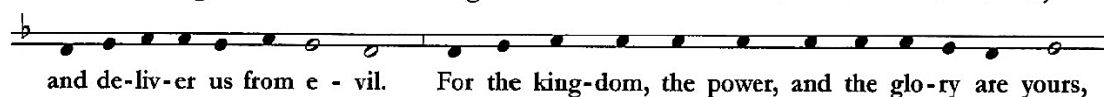
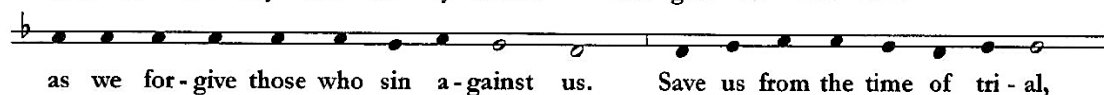
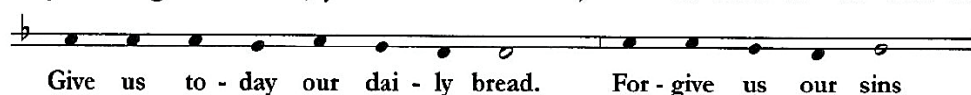
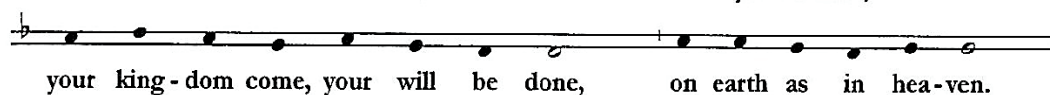
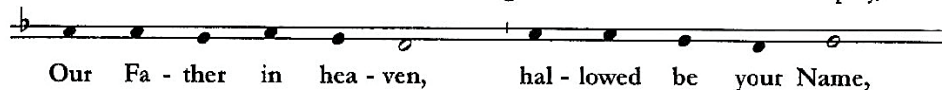
Come now, Spirit of God, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Cantor*



*All*



## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

*People* **Whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia.**

## Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer-cy on us.

Je-sus, bear-er of our sins, have mer-cy on us.

Je-sus, Re - deem - er, re - deem-er of the world, do-na no-bis

pa - cem, do-na no-bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

### *Celebrant continues*

This is the table 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.

*Please be seated.*

## Distribution of Communion

### *Please join us at God's table.*

*All people, including children, are invited to receive Communion. Gluten-free wafers are also available. If you would prefer not to take Communion but would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.*

## Communion Music

*Come, Gracious Spirit*

Simon Browne

Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove, with light and comfort from above;  
Be thou our guardian, thou our guide; o'er every thought and step preside.

The light of truth to us display, and make us know and choose thy way;  
Plant holy fear in every heart, that we from thee may ne'er depart.

Lead us to Christ, the living Way, nor let us from his precepts stray;  
Lead us to holiness, the road that we must take to dwell with God.

Lead us to heaven, that we may share fullness of joy for ever there;  
Lead us to God, our final rest, to be with him for ever blest.

*Two minutes of silence follow.*

**After Communion Music**    *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Charles Wesley

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal, as His love, Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

### **After Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

**All            Loving God, we give you thanks that in the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, you awaken us to your indwelling Presence and our true life. Help us to recognize and honor your Presence in one another, to treat each other with reverence and humility, and to become, more and more, the people we already are in you. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*Celebrant* May the light of Christ, rising in glory, scatter the darkness of your hearts and minds; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you, and be with you always. **Amen.**

## **Music for Meditation**

*Please stand.*

## **Dismissal**

*Leader* Alleluia! Alleluia! The Lord has made a promise to love you faithfully forever. Go out with joy and be led forth with Peace.

**All** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

*Instrumental Music*

*Feel free to depart during the postlude.*

Music by Ian Bula

## TODAY, Sunday April 12

*Flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the wedding of Parker Wheeler and Sergey Corey.*

*Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Rodney Smiley, Mable & Kenneth Corley and Bob Shaddock.*

The Very Rev. Ian Markham and Rev. Dr. Barney Hawkins will preach and teach during formation hour on the state of theological education in the Episcopal Church and why pilgrimages are important. Join us for an opportunity to ask questions and learn from the best!

### **Garden Ministry Plant Sale**

Today! 8:30-12:30

Our garden ministry leaders, Bernie Golczynski and Trey Wilson are offering native plants for sale to benefit our ongoing garden beautification. Please stop by and take this opportunity to be a good steward of this earth, our island home.

A delicious **Breakfast** will be served from 8:15am - 10:45am. \$10/adult, \$7/children under 8; \$34 family max.

**Nursery Care** - Available from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm, for children ages four months to 5.

### **Children's Chapel**

9:15 am |Hospitality Lobby

### **Children's Formation**

10:15-11:00am |Meet in the F&A Building

### **Gabe Bove Bible Study (100)**

10:15 – 11:00 | F209

**Scott Burch Bible Study (200): Excavating the Bible** 10:15 – 11:00 am | Room 224

Contact: scottburch@yahoo.com

**Youth Forum** |10:15-11:00am

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School! Contact Amy Schmitt at 703-300-5024 to learn more or sign up here:



**Registration for Hometown Mission Week is now open.** Scan here for details and registration.



Sign up to participate in **Youth Sunday** on May 3. We hope to fill our services with youth ushers, lectors, and acolytes as we celebrate our youth ministry and graduating seniors. Contact Parker Wheeler at pwheeler@ccpvb.org to participate.

**Join a Choir** – High School Students & Adults

Questions? Contact Dr. Rachel Root at rroot@ccpvb.org

**Women's Ensemble** – Rehearse Wednesdays 6:30-7 pm, sings monthly at 9 & 11:15 am

**Men's Ensemble** - Rehearse Wednesdays 6:30-7 pm, sings monthly at 7:30, 9 & 11:15

**Chancel Choir** - Rehearse Wednesdays 7-8pm, sings weekly at 11:15 am

**Handbell Choir** - Rehearse Thursdays 6-7 pm, plays monthly at either 9 or 11:15  
**Children's Choir** - Rehearse Wednesdays 5:15-6pm in F and A building room 124

## **SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK**

### **Nehemiah Assembly**

April 13 | 6:45 – 8:00pm | Abyssinia  
Missionary Baptist Church

Join this important meeting with leaders from around our city to discuss affordable housing, hunger issues, and more. Buses will be provided from Christ Church along with a pizza dinner beforehand! Register online at [ccpvb.org](http://ccpvb.org)

Join us for **Wednesday Night Dinner** from 5:45-7:00pm. \$10 adults / \$7 kids / \$34 family max. This week: Tacos!

**Women in the Word** Spring Bible Study Begins April 15 | 7:00pm | Westbury Hall Conference Room

We will work through a 7-session study called "Jesus and Women" by Kristi McLelland. Contact Mary Ann Reynolds at [mahrey51@aol.com](mailto:mahrey51@aol.com) for more information.

### **Leaving a Living Legacy: Caring for Jacksonville in a Changing World**

April 16 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm | Christ Church  
Join C-Change Conversations Founder Kathleen Biggins for a nonpartisan presentation connecting climate science to the realities facing our coastal community. She will provide practical insight for caring for the places and people we love. Rooted in shared values of responsibility and concern for future

generations, this conversation offers the confidence to engage constructively and preserve what makes Jacksonville special. Recognized nationwide for its balanced, science-based approach, C-Change presentations have reached over 24,000 people in 34 states and internationally. Register online at [ccpvb.org](http://ccpvb.org)

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### **The Holy Spirit: God's Presence and Power at Work in Us** – a clergy-led class

April 19- May 17 | 10:15-11:00 am | Room 106

### **Club 45 Spring Hangout**

**April 19 | 4:30–6:00 PM**

4th and 5th graders are invited to a basketball-focused afternoon with Coach Stephanie Madden. No experience required!

### **April 25 - Family Service Day at Feeding Northeast Florida from 1:00–3:30 pm**

Families with children ages 5 and up (accompanied by an adult) are invited to participate in a behind-the-scenes warehouse tour, a kid-friendly service project, and a hands-on learning activity. Registration will be open shortly online at [ccpvb.org](http://ccpvb.org)

### **Oyster Roast - May 1**

Save the date! Our annual Christ Church and Community Oyster Roast will be held on Friday, May 1st from 6-9pm. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please join us at our meeting on Thursday, March 19th at 1pm in room F106 or contact

Stephanie Murray, [smurray@ccpvb.org](mailto:smurray@ccpvb.org), for more information.

### **May 12 - Joyful Friends 75+**

11:30 am | Dining Room

Join us for lunch and a special event featuring an interactive talk about Canine Companions service and therapy dogs. Not only will you have the opportunity to learn about the training and work of these remarkable dogs, we will have a few pups at the event who will demonstrate their skills that will enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Please RSVP to the main office or through the church website by May 8th so we have a proper head count for our luncheon.

## **SUMMER CAMPS AT CHRIST CHURCH**

### **Nourishing Eats Culinary Camp**

(Three sessions!)

June 16–18, June 29–July 1, July 13–15

8:30 AM–12:30 PM

Join Chef Jen and Chef Doreen for a fun and hands-on cooking experience at Nourishing Eats Culinary Camp. Campers will explore recipes and techniques inspired by the rich culinary traditions of Europe while learning new kitchen skills. Register online at [ccpvb.org](http://ccpvb.org)

### **Theater & Music Camp: *Three of a Kind***

July 13–17 | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Rising 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders

Led by Stephanie Murray, *Three of a Kind* is a delightful 30-minute musical featuring favorite characters that come in threes—

bears, little pigs, blind mice, billy goats gruff, musketeers, and more. Campers will enjoy a creative week of theater games, singing, acting, dancing, playing instruments, and designing their own costumes.

### **Musical Theater Camp: *Golly Gee Whiz***

July 27–31 | 3:00–8:30 PM

Rising 5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to a fun and creative week of musical theater featuring the award-winning show *Golly Gee Whiz*. Campers will sing, act, dance, play theater games, and help design sets, costumes, and props. The week will conclude with a performance.

### **General Warning - Phishing & Other Scams**

Please note that all of our clergy and some of our lay staff continue to be victims of phishing attempts and other online scams. There is nothing that we can do to stop these attacks apart from warning you about them. Please note on the church website ([www.ccpvb.org](http://www.ccpvb.org)) the real and valid email addresses of our clergy and staff. Phishing attacks work by taking our valid email addresses and changing them just a little bit. The scammers then impersonate the clergy or staff, using these faked email addresses, sending emails to you (yes, they have your email address as well), asking for money or gift cards. **Please do not fall for this scam.** No one from this church will ever ask you for gift cards. And please pray for the scammers, that they may repent from their thieving ways, and give their life to Jesus!

## Worship Services

7:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m.	Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:00 a.m.	Cooper Chapel	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:00 a.m.	Parish Center, 2nd floor	Jordan Service
9:00 a.m.	NSIA Community Center	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m.	Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m.	Parish Center, 2nd floor	Jordan Service
12:45 p.m.	Cooper Chapel	Spanish-language Service
5:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary	Contemplative Service
5:30 p.m. (Wed)	Cooper Chapel	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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## Vestry

Maggie Bowers	Janet Burnside, Treasurer	Kathy Blackman	
Chris Brownlee	Gordon Deen	Travers Landreth	Katharine Loeb
Doug Long	Justin Udelhofen	Wendy Waller	
Sarah Wefer	Trey Wilson	Gretna Zerebny	

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## Staff Clergy

The Rev. Thomas P. Reeder, Rector  
The Rev. Andreis Diaz, Vice Rector  
The Rev. Amy Slater, Sr. Associate Rector      The Rev. Laura Magevney, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Wendy Billingslea, Chaplain  
The Rev. Keith Oglesby, Vicar for Christ Church Among the Oaks

## Deacons

The Rev. Deacon Leila Quinlan      The Rev. Deacon Priscilla Wodehouse

## Adjunct Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Jim Cooper, Rector Emeritus  
The Rev. Michael Ellis      The Rev. Louanne Loch  
The Rev. Eric Kahl      The Rev. Bob Morris  
The Rev. Burt Shepherd      The Rev. Rich Roos  
The Rev. Joan Bryan, Emeritus  
The Rev. Deacon Jo Hoskins, Deacon Emeritus