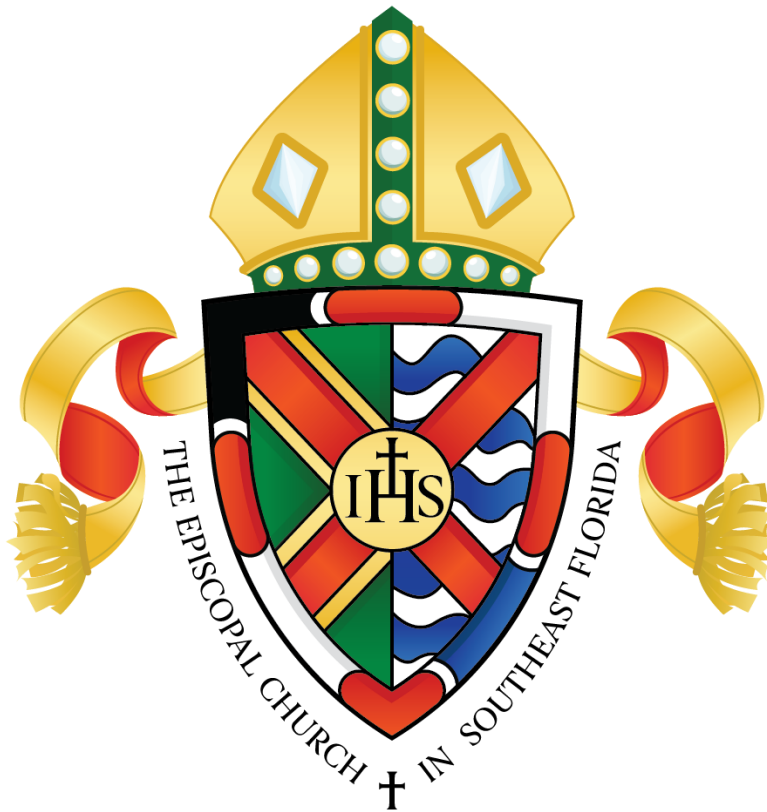


THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA



THE CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY

*The Holy Eucharist and Institution of
the Reverend Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr.*

as the Rector of

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School

THE FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION
OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

(Transferred)

December 9, 2023 ♦ 12:00 p.m.

MISSION

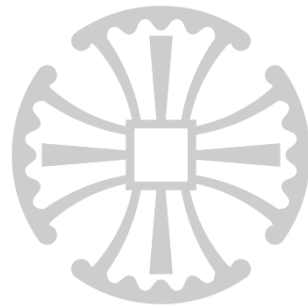
We exist to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love.

VISION

We are called to be a vibrant spiritual and educational community resource, radiating God's love for everyone, everywhere.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of Good Shepherd truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. *Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

We are so delighted to have you with us today. You are invited to join us for our other worship services. On Sunday, we offer Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 a.m. At 10:00 we celebrate Holy Eucharist Rite II with music. Nursery care for children under three is available in the Ryon (office) Building for the 10 a.m. service. On the second and fourth Sundays of the month, at 5:00 p.m., join us for Church on the Green. This is an outdoor Eucharist with spiritual lessons from the Seasons of Nature and the Church. On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., we have a service of Holy Eucharist and Healing in the chapel. Be sure to ask the greeters for more information.

ABOUT THE CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY

The celebration of new ministry is an opportunity for a faith community to come together as a whole to celebrate the covenant a parish makes with their rector to worship and carry out their various ministries in mutual support of one another. It is also the joyful occasion of installing their new rector.

CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY



THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Ave Maria

Schubert

PROCESSIONAL HYMNS • 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

518

Christ is made the sure foundation

At the beginning of the Processional Hymn, the people stand and join in singing

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bishop: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Bishop continues

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.**

GLORIA • S-280 *all sing*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop says

My sisters and brothers in Christ, we have gathered here as the family of God to offer our worship and praise, and to pray for God's blessings on all who work in his name. Today we thank God for the ministry and mission of the Church over the years in this parish and for those who have shared in it, and now, as we institute Sanford to this new ministry as the Rector, so we rededicate ourselves to the call of God, to the growth of the Kingdom, and to the building up of the Body of Christ, the Church.

The Bishop, clergy, and people sit, and the Rector-Elect is presented.

THE INSTITUTION

The Wardens, standing before the Bishop with the new priest, say

Bishop Eaton, we have come together today to welcome the Reverend Dr. Sanford Groff, Jr., who has been chosen to serve as Rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School. We believe that he is well qualified, and that he has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

Bishop: Sanford, my brother, the Episcopal Church is part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, and it is this faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your Care?

Rector-Elect: I, Sanford, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of The Episcopal Church bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service that are authorized or allowed by Canon.

The Rector-Elect signs the Declaration in the sight of the People.

Bishop: Let the Letter of Institution be read.

The Archdeacon reads the Letter of Institution.

Bishop: Sanford, do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

Rector-Elect: I do, firm in my trust in God's grace.

All stand.

The Bishop then addresses the congregation.

Bishop: My sisters and brothers of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School, by baptism you have been grafted into the community of faith, God's holy fellowship, the body of Christ, the Church. Together with your new priest you have been called to share in the Church's mission to preach the Gospel and to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. In baptism you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise ministry in Christ's name, with mutual affection and respect in this parish, in our Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida, and in the wider Church and community.

Remember that the whole community of faith has the necessary gifts of grace for ministry. In prayer, join with your priest in discerning the vision for this parish, and in calling forth the leadership, resources, and talents that this vision requires. As you love and serve God's people, remember always to love, support, nourish, and pray for your priest, his family, and the members of the staff and others who serve with you and with him here.

My sisters and brothers, do you, in the presence of your new priest and the gathered Church, commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

People: **We do, firm in our trust in God's grace.**

The Bishop then says

Let us now offer our prayers to God for all God's people, for this congregation, and for Sanford, your new Rector.

LITANY FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Intercessor: God the Father, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being.

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor God the Son, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father.

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor God the Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and gives life to the people of God.

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor Holy Trinity, one God, source of our unity and diversity.

People **Have mercy on us.**

Intercessor From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,

People **Savior, deliver us.**

Intercessor From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,

People **Savior, deliver us.**

Intercessor From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,

People **Savior, deliver us.**

Intercessor From ignorance, apathy and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,

People **Savior, deliver us.**

Intercessor Touch our minds, that we may be given a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect all your wonderful works.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Remember especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Peter, our Bishop, that they may love and care for your people.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

Intercessor Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.
People **Hear us, O Christ.**

All say together

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

THE COLLECTS

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as with her we look for his first coming as our Savior, so may we be ready to greet him when he comes again to be our Judge; for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Everliving God, strengthen and sustain Sanford, that with patience and understanding he may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

THE READINGS

THE FIRST READING

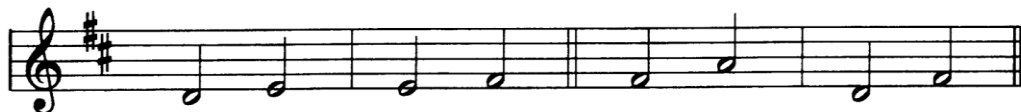
GENESIS 3:9-15a

The Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98



- 1 Sing to the LORD a new /song, *
for he has done marvelous /things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy /arm *
has he won for himself the /victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his /victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the/ nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of /Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our /God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you /lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and /sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the /harp, *
with the harp and the voice of/ song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the /horn *
shout with joy before the King, the /LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is/ in it, *
the lands and those who dwell there/in.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their /hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the/ earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the /world *
and the peoples with /equity.

THE SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 11-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN • 278

Sing we of the blessed Mother

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 1:26-38

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony Holder

After a brief period of silence, representatives of the congregation and of the clergy of the diocese come forward and stand before the Bishop with the Rector-Elect. The congregation remains seated.

THE INDUCTION

The Bishop says

My sisters and brothers in Christ, we now present the symbols of ministry that represent the fullness of our common life in the Body of Christ.

Representatives from Good Shepherd School present a Bible, saying

Sanford, accept this Bible, and be among us as one who proclaims the Word.

People: Amen.

The Bishop presents a vessel of water, saying

Sanford, take this water, and help me baptize in obedience to our Lord.

People: Amen.

Representatives from our Youth and Children present a stole, saying

Sanford, receive this stole, and be among us as a pastor and priest.

People: Amen.

Representatives of our Search Committee present a Book of Prayers, saying

Sanford, receive this book, and be among us as a man of prayer.

People: Amen.

Representatives of our Healing Team and Outreach Committee present Holy Oil, saying

Sanford, use this oil, and be among us as a healer and reconciler.

People: Amen.

The Wardens present the keys of the building, which signify the authority of the Rector, saying

Sanford, receive these keys, and let the doors of this place be open to all people.

People: Amen.

The Canon to the Ordinary and the Dean of the Deanery present the Constitution and Canons of this Church, saying

Sanford, obey these Canons, and be among us to share in the councils of this diocese.

People: Amen.

Representatives of our Altar Guild present Bread and Wine, saying

Sanford, take this bread and wine, and be among us to break the Bread and bless the Cup.

People: Amen.

The Bishop then says

Sanford, let all these be signs of the ministry which is mine and yours in this place.

People: Amen.

Kneeling, the Rector-Elect says

Lord my God, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; yet you have called your servant to stand in your house, and to serve at your altar. To you and to your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit. Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do. Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer your holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my ministry. In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praises, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn into your blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Bishop: Archdeacon Bazin, I now ask you to induct the new Rector into his ministry by seating him in the customary stall of the Rector in the sanctuary.

The Archdeacon escorts the new Rector to his place in the sanctuary, and places him in the seat he will occupy during worship.

Archdeacon: Sanford, my brother, by the authority of the Bishop, and with the consent of the people, I place you in the accustomed seat of the priest of this parish. May God watch over your going out and your coming in, from this day forth and for evermore. **Amen.**

The Archdeacon and the new Rector return to the Bishop in front of the congregation.

The Bishop presents their new Rector and his family to the congregation, saying

Greet your new Rector, and his husband, Tony.

THE PEACE

New Rector The peace of the Lord be with you always

People: **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Good Shepherd's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. The offering that is collected at this service supports the Special Assistance Fund of the Rector that allows him to help people in particular need. Please be generous!



Scan to give now

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Matthews

The people stand.

DOXOLOGY • (blue Hymnal, 380 vs. 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A*

The People remain standing. The Bishop sings

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

Celebrant People
Lift up your hearts. 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.

The Bishop proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS (S-125)

**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.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The People remain standing or kneel. The Bishop continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Bishop and People:

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

The Bishop continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 forever. **Amen.**

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

All join in saying the 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. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Bishop breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Bishop: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM (S161) *sung by all*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Bishop: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to receive Holy Communion this afternoon, an ancient practice intended for all baptized Christians, no matter your tradition.

You may receive just the Bread (which is full participation in the sacrament), or both the Bread and the Wine. As an alternative to sipping directly from the cup, you may receive by intinction and the priest will dip the Bread in a separate chalice for you. To receive by intinction please fold your hands in front of you at the altar rail to indicate your preference. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister.

For those not receiving Holy Communion, you may also cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

Sung by the congregation

Ave Verum

I want to walk as a child of the light

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Mozart

Hymn 490

Hymn 304

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

After Communion, all stand

Bishop: Let us pray.

Bishop and People:

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that Sanford may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with him, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The new Rector blesses the People, first saying

Rector: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The new Rector continues

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one all things in earth and heaven, fill you with eager longing for his appearing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN • 525

The Church's one foundation

The Deacon dismisses the people.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude



All are invited to join us for a reception after
the service to greet Sanford and his family.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Celebrant	The Bishop
Dean of the Deanery and Preacher	The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony Holder
Canon to the Ordinary	The Rev. Canon Licia B. Affer
Archdeacon	The Ven. Canon Dr. J. Fitz Bazin
Deacon of the Mass	The Ven. Faye Somers
Rector-Elect	The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr.
Assisting Priest	The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF
Bishop's Chaplain	The Ven. Hal Hurley
Vergers	Tracy Smith Larry Smith
Eucharistic Ministers	Janice Thomas Mark Chittum
Reader	Beth Bohnsack
Intercessor	Peggy Chittum
Thurifer	Maggie Riddle
Acolyte Server	Zach Gouery
Church Crucifer	Jack Grashof
Church Torch Bearers	Sophie Riddle Charlotte Riddle
School Crucifer	Kathleen Richardson
School Torch Bearers	Reagan Flaherty Isabelle Hart
Kite Bearer	Emily Smith
Banner Bearer	Elliot Gouery
Ushers	Mike Greene Kevin Riddle
Greeters	Cameille Walch Tom Walch
Vocalists	The Parish Choir
Organist	Timm C. Johnson-Reynolds
String Quartet	Encore Chamber Players
Altar Guild	Denise Preston Eleanore Browne Jeanne Couillard
Technology and Sound	Erik Pariseleti

PRESENTERS

Representatives from Good Shepherd School	The Rosen Family
Representatives from our Youth and Children	Jack and Lucy Davis, Edgar Lail
Representatives from Altar Guild	Jeanne Couillard and Denise Preston
Representatives from Search Committee	Peggy Greene and Michael Grashof
Representatives of Healing and Outreach Ministries	Alex Lesbirel and Marilyn Lawrence
Senior and Junior Wardens	Heather Graham and Michael Howard
Canon to the Ordinary and Dean of the Deanery	The Rev. Canon Licia B. Affer The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony Holder

Let's welcome the Reverend Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr.



Sanford comes to us from Saint Mark's Episcopal Church and School in neighboring Palm Beach Gardens, where he has served for the last nine years as Associate Rector. Prior to that, he served as Associate Chaplain at Saint Paul's School for Boys outside of Baltimore, Maryland, for seven years. He was ordained a priest in 2013 in the Diocese of Maryland.

Sanford earned a Doctor of Ministry from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2020 focusing on Educational Leadership. He brings a breadth of knowledge and experience working in Episcopal schools. He attended Duke Divinity School in North Carolina for his Master of Divinity degree. Prior to his time at Duke, Sanford served for a year as a missionary in Kenya teaching at an all-girls boarding school. He earned his bachelor's degree from Grove City College north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For high school he attended The Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, as a boarding student. Sanford was raised outside of Philadelphia.

Sanford and his husband, Antonio Romano, were married at Saint Mark's with nearly the entire parish in attendance. Tony is an attorney in town who grew up in beautiful Fort Myers. He is the son of parents who immigrated here from Calabria, Italy. "We both love to eat," Sanford shares, "I enjoy cooking, especially now that I have a whole family to go to for delicious Italian cuisine and recipes!" Sanford and Tony enjoy traveling and spending time with their families. "Living in paradise, we regularly host visiting family members fleeing from the cold." They are looking forward to moving into the rectory.

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr., *Rector*
The Rev. Derek M. Larson, *Associate Rector*
Merike Seely, *Parish Administrator*
Timm C. Johnson-Reynolds, *Music Director*
Heather Vaughn, *Head of School*
Jo Wood, *Director of Hospitality*
Debbie White, *Assistant Choir Coordinator*
Lynn Evans, *Business Manager*
Mary Lou Crifasi, *Office Coordinator*
Beth Long, *Thrift Store Manager*
Erik Pariseleti, *Technology Coordinator*
Evelyn Seely, *Digital Media Assistant*

OUR VESTRY

Heather Graham, *Senior Warden*
Mike Howard, *Junior Warden*
Mike Greene, *Treasurer*
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