

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost

October 25th, 2026

10:30 AM in the Church

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

Rector

Welcome to our Church

WELCOME to **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

Services are available: Recent services are available on our website:

<https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

Newsletters: Sign-up today to receive our weekly electronic newsletter! Email the church office at office@stpaulwilkesboro.org to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

336-667-4231

www.stpaulwilkesboro.org

E-mail: office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:



The Gathering

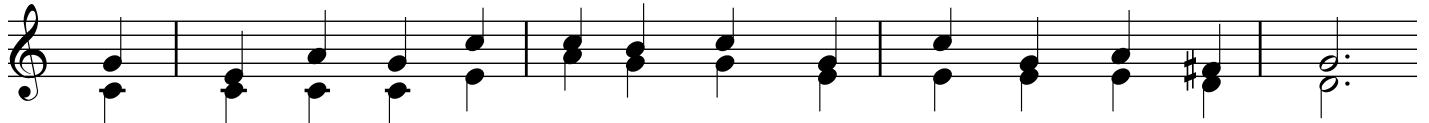
Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

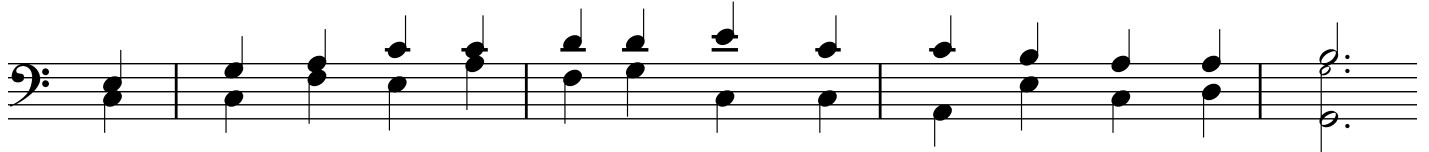
trad. German

Welcome and Announcements

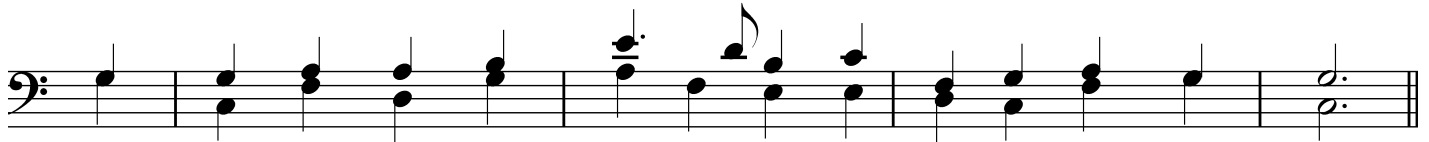
Processional Hymn #680 O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;



1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.



6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Opening Acclamation

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider Let us pray:

**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



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and generosity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, help us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Domine, refugium

Lord, you have been our refuge *

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or the land and the earth were born, *

from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, *

"Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *

and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream; *

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; *

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? *

be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that we could not find you *

and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works *

and your splendor to their children.

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; *

prosper the work of our hands;

prosper our handiwork.

Second Reading

1Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are most comfortable.

Sequence Hymn #517 How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first stanza is the most prominent, with the other stanzas providing additional verses. The score includes a variety of musical notations, including whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, as well as rests and accidentals. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with some words in italics for emphasis.

1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to
2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a
3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with
4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a -

me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -
nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and
springs, and they shall climb from height to height till
way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor

in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and
praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose
Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in
from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly

flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.
hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.
glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.
bless all those who live the words they pray.

The Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

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

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

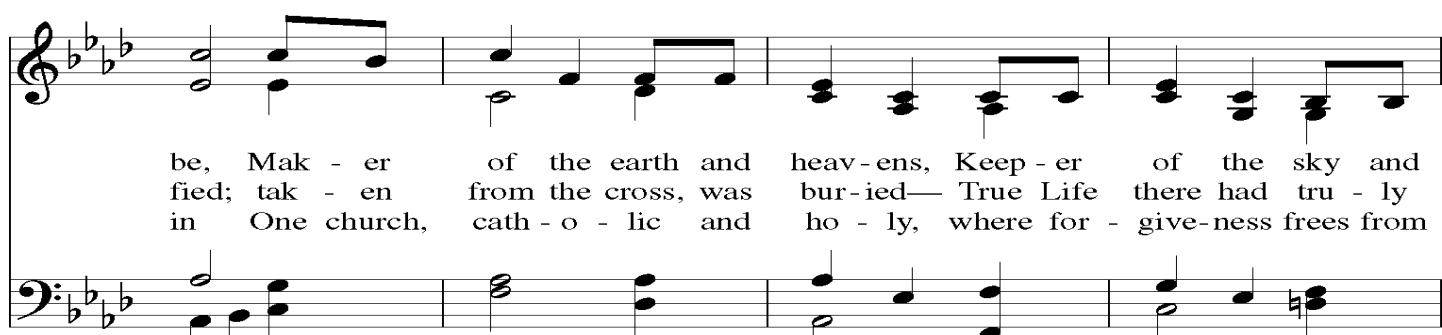
A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

The Nicene Creed—Wonder, Love & Praise



1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-



be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from



sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the



us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -



Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
right hand. He will come to judge and save.
last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May the love that flows endlessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit renew and deepen the lives of all who follow Jesus and draw the human family all together into your eternal dance. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May we, with the leaders of the Church, and the leaders of nations discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, that all may reflect your unity in every aspect of our common lives. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May your Abundant Life, seen clearly in the life of Jesus, endure and flourish in us as the Holy Spirit enlightens us to a greater understanding of you, ourselves, and all others with whom we share our planet. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May our families, our communal life and our wider communities be places of communion and mutual support, which builds us up and strengthens us with your grace and truth. This we ask:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: We give you thanks for our natural world, which you so lovingly created; help us be wise, careful, and loving caregivers of your creation. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: In the power of your Spirit who joins our prayer to Christ's eternal intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, those who have died, and all who stand in need, especially (your prayers are invited silently or aloud here)...For healing for all the world we pray,

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: In an endless outpouring of thanksgiving for your ceaseless joy and rejoicing in the power of your grace we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Presider: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable.

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Moment of silence observed.

**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.**

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”** is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.*

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving

Presider: Walk in love...

Offertory Anthem

My Song is Love Unknown
(for text, see Hymn #458)

Carl Schalk

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are most comfortable

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Presider *continues*

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 his mother Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. 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, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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, reconcile all peoples to your grace and love, and bring us to that heavenly country where with our Patron, Paul, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children of light; 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,
**hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction

S-154

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God...
God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

In one kind--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.

In two kinds--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice.

Gluten free wafers available upon request.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: 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.**

The Blessing

Please stand or kneel as you are comfortable.

Recessional Hymn #450 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

6 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate
2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar
3 Hail him, the Heir of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did
* 4 Ye heirs of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the
* 5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the

ball, to him a - scribe, and

1 fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
2 call: praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and
3 call, the God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and
4 fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and
5 gall, go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and

crown him Lord of all! to him a -

1 crown him Lord of all! bring forth the roy - al
2 crown him Lord of all! praise him whose way of
3 crown him Lord of all! the God in - car - nate,
4 crown him Lord of all! hail him who saves you
5 crown him Lord of all! go, spread your tro - phies

scribe, and crown him Lord of all!

1 di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 2 pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!
 3 Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all!
 4 by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 5 at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

6 Let every kindred, every tribe,
 on this terrestrial ball,
 to him all majesty ascribe,
 and crown him Lord of all!

Words: Edward Perronet (1726-1792), alt. Music: *Coronation*, Oliver Holden (1765-1844), alt.; desc. Michael E. Young (b. 1939). Descant, Copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Roulade (*for pedals alone*)

Carson Cooman

Christian Parent, organ

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers: All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

Short-term

Ann Reid, Elenor Wilborn, Sloan Bodford, Willie Barber, Kim Tetzlaff, Doug Merritt, Shannon Ryan, Jamie Tate

Long-term

Michael Morrison, Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Da'Shon Horton, Rose Andrews, Margo Hurd

For the Departed

Andy Southwell

Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially John Craine, Micha Duerk, Faith Lankford, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve throughout the world.

Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code below, or by contacting the office.





October 27th - Laurie Love

October 27th - Mark Williams

October 29th - Princess Sloan

October 31st - Craig Freas

No anniversaries this week.



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Laurie Love, Reba Whittington, Kendall Forester

Reader: Nancy Scroggs

Acolyte: Steve Reid

Usher: David McNeill

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Streaming Ministry: Rachel Minick, Gerry Peabody

Vestry Lock-Up for October: Jeff Beard



The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

St. Paul's Vestry 2026

Jeff Beard

Jim Burch, Jr. Warden

Chuck Forester

Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden

Tana Myers

Diane Peabody

Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Linda Schneider, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*

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Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*

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Dean Carlton, *Sexton*