

October 19, 2025
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Holy Eucharist
with Children's Chapel and Capital Campaign Ingathering



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Seeking God • Building Community • Growing Faith • Reaching Out
5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816
301.229.2994
StDunstansBethesda.org

The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, *Rector* rector@stdunstansbethesda.org
Ms. Diane Atherton, *Minister of Music* music@stdunstansbethesda.org
Mr. Ulysses Squitieri, *Organist* organist@stdunstansbethesda.org
Ms. Jenna Monroe, *Children's Minister* familyministry@stdunstansbethesda.org
Ms. Cami Caudill, *Seminararian* ccaudill@vts.edu
Ms. Elisabeth Saidi, *Parish Administrator* admin@stdunstansbethesda.org
Mr. Rick Loucks, *Facilities Maintenance Coordinator* facilities@stdunstansbethesda.org
Lila and Sany Saidi, *Sunday Morning Childcare Providers*

Welcome to St. Dunstan's!

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.*

~ Jeremiah 29:11-12



Thank you for choosing to worship with St. Dunstan's this morning! We are a community of seekers doing our best to live authentically and faithfully in this challenging and complicated world, and we are delighted that you are sharing the journey with us today.

Children are *always* welcome here; please make yourself and your family at home. There are coloring sheets on the round table between the glass doors, as well as books and soft toys at the back of the church. Rest assured: We are delighted by the “joyful noise” that children inevitably make, *and* don't worry if you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a few minutes.

Babysitting for children **4 and under** is provided **downstairs in the Nursery**. For everyone's safety, **registration is required**: Please scan the QR code to the right to sign up. *To learn more about offerings for children and families, please share your contact information on the clipboard on the Welcome Table.*



Restrooms are located in the hallway by the glass doors.

If you find the wooden pews uncomfortable, feel free to borrow a **cushion** from the rear of the Nave for use during worship.

Please wear a **name tag**! Permanent name tags are on the board in the entry hall. If you don't yet have a permanent tag, please use a stick-on badge until we can make you an official one.

Unless otherwise noted, music for this morning's **hymns** may be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* or the red and black *Lift Every Voice and Sing* in your pew rack.

Please observe quiet in the Nave before the service to enable everyone to pray and prepare for worship.

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Ulysses Squitieri, *organ*

Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.

Processional Hymn

“How firm a foundation”

Music: *Hymnal*, 637

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Song of Praise

“In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful”

Taizé chant

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es, the Lord is near, lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

TEXT AND MUSIC: Jacques Berthier
Copyright © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé. Used with permission.

Repeat, following the Choir.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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.

Children are invited to attend Children's Chapel in the Youth Room.

The Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

Lector A Reading from the Book of Genesis:

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reciting the psalm responsively.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from God, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved; *
the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Holy One watches over you *
and is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

God shall preserve you from all evil *
and is the One who shall keep you safe.

God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Please stand and join in singing.

Sequence Hymn

“How great thou art,” vv. 1-2, 4

Music: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, 60

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God how great thou art.

Refrain

The Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

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

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

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Please be seated at the preacher's invitation.

After a moment of silence, please stand.

The Nicene Creed

Leader and People

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come, Amen.

**universal*

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor and People pray responsively

Almighty God, in confidence and trust we lift our prayers to you.

We pray for the world:

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace,
that we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it;
teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Move the President, the Vice President, Members of Congress, and Supreme Court Justices to set aside fear, greed, and vain ambition.

Inspire them to strive for peace and justice.

continued

We pray for the Church:

O God, enliven the Church for its mission,
that we may be the salt of the earth and light to the world.

Bless and guide *Sarah*, our Archbishop of Canterbury-designate; *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop; *Mariann*, our Bishop; *Eugene*, our Assisting Bishop; *Hosam*, Archbishop in Jerusalem; and all who minister in your Name;
may they speak truth, seek forgiveness, and be instruments of healing.

Break down the barriers that divide,
that the Church may serve you in one common ministry.

We pray for the community:

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others,
that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours;
may we serve Christ in one another and love as He loves us.

Remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people,
so that your children may be reconciled and live together in peace.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:

God of hope, comfort and restore all in need of healing of any kind, especially the individuals and situations on our Parish Prayer List (*see p. 15*) and those we name now, silently or aloud:

Pause for prayers of petition and intercession

Make us channels of compassion,
that we may share your restoring love.

Uphold those who wait this day for a word of hope: those who live in places torn apart by violence, war, or disaster; immigrants and refugees; and the unemployed, underemployed, and unhoused.
May they find shelter under the shadow of your wing.

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve their loss:

Loving God, into your hands we commend those who have died in the faith of Christ, especially *Bob Wolfolk* (friend of Diane Adams), as well as those whose faith is known to you alone.

Give comfort to those who mourn; fill them with your boundless peace.

The Presider concludes

Lord, you have helped us glimpse the plans you have for us: With your help, we are indeed doing a new thing. Inspire us to dream beyond our self-perceived limits, and move forward with confidence to fulfill your vision for our future. In Jesus' Name we pray, **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

Please greet one another in the Name of Christ and then be seated.

Welcome

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Ephesians 3:20,21*

At the Offertory

Lift thine eyes

F. Mendelssohn (1809 -47)

*Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church!
If you would like to make an offering this morning, you may place it in the Offertory bag.
Please also feel free to donate online at <https://stdunstansbethesda.org/support/donate.html>
or mail a check to the Parish Office.*

*If you would like to submit a **Capital Campaign Pledge Card** today,
please place it in the basket at the back of the Nave during the Offertory Anthem.*

The Holy Communion

*Please stand as the day's Offering and the congregation's Capital Campaign Pledge Cards
are brought forward for blessing.*

Presider

All things come from You, O Lord,

People

and from Your own hand we have given to You.

Presider

Let us pray: We dedicate these pledges to you, O God.

People

Help us to use them to glorify you; may we be vessels of your love and hope in this world.

Presider

Use us, O God, to accomplish your will in this place.

People

Use us as your ministers to the Body of Christ.

Presider

We thank you, O God, for the abundance of these gifts, and we ask your blessing upon them, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever, **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

EOW, Eucharistic Prayer 1

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 our thanks and praise.**

Presider

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

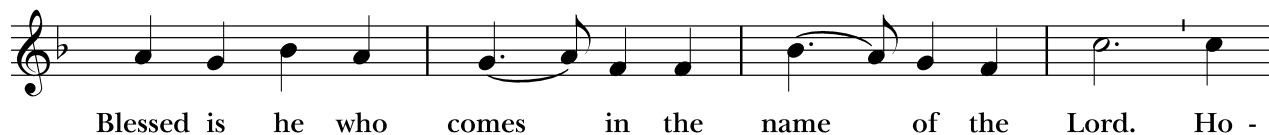
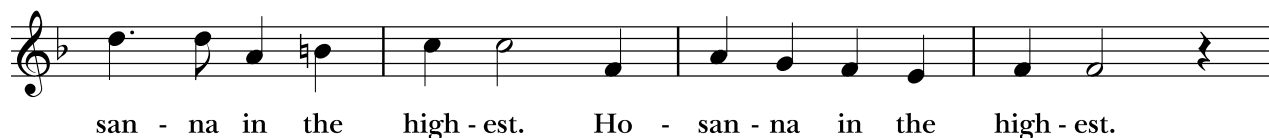
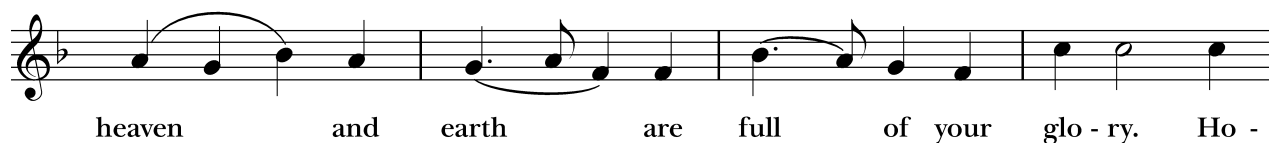
You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

Hymnal, S-125





Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please stand, kneel, or sit.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

continued

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Dunstan, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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

A period of silence is kept.

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Presider These are the Gifts of God, for you, the People of God, **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Communion

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament in one or both kinds. Consecrated wine is available from the chalice or in individual cups; gluten-free Communion bread is also available upon request. Please place used Communion cups in the bowl at the back for reverent disposal.

If you would prefer not to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, the signal for which is to cross your arms over your chest when you reach the Altar.

Music during Communion

Standin' in the Need of Prayer

Traditional spiritual
arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949)

St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir

Please join in singing.

“There's a wideness in God's mercy”

Music: *Hymnal*, 469

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Please stand.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray:
and People **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

Presider Hear again these words from the Lord your God:
Surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, and all those you love, from this day forth and forevermore,
Amen.

Please join in singing.

Closing Hymn

“Immortal, invisible, God only wise”

Music: *Hymnal*, 423

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Please be seated following the hymn.

Announcements (see pp. 15-17)

Please stand, as you are able.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us bless the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Ulysses Squitieri, *organ*

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Please remember in prayer:

Randy Alexander; Julie Anderson; Jeff Boesch; Rebecca Bryant;
Phil and Patti Carroll; Austin Cox; Henry Cox; Donna Embry;
Kenny Farnsworth; Katie Beck Fey; Jon Michael Gaudioso; Ben Hull; David Hull;
Frank Libutti; Patricia Mackenzie; John Meeker; Cathy Nerantzis; Rick Nickles;
Joyce Nugent; Linda Rogers; Shannon Rose; Curtis Shively; Jack Tovornik;
Peggy Vaughn; Sandra Walters; Jim Ward; Amy; Ben; Bill; Christopher; Claire;
David; Farid; Gerald; Grace; Henry; Karen; Katherine; Marty; Melanie; Phyllis;
Sherry; *and* Shiloh

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Announcements

Today at St. Dunstan's:

- + **Welcome, Visitors!** We are delighted that you are here, and we hope you can stay for a few minutes after worship so that we can greet you properly. To learn more about St. Dunstan's, please fill out a **visitor form**, found on the table in the entry hall, and help yourself to a **welcome bag** as a token of our gratitude that you have joined us today.
- + **Fellowship Time:** Come share a cup of coffee or tea, a snack, and good conversation in the **Parish Hall** immediately following this service!
- + **Adult Formation Hour:** The St. Dunstan's Green Team invites you to "**Passionate about Trees: Because Oxygen is a Tough Habit to Break,**" a special presentation at **12 Noon** in the **Parish Hall**. Our speaker today is by **Hank Dearden**, Executive Director of **ForestPlanet**, a small tree planting nonprofit organization. Hank will talk about reforestation as a meaningful act of service and benefit for all people. Please join us!
- + **The Chancel Choir** rehearses at **12 Noon**. New members are welcome!

The Week Ahead:

+ Tuesday, October 21:

- 11 a.m.: “What Now?!” (*Parish Hall*)
- 12 Noon: Prayers for Peace and Healing (*Zoom**)

+ Wednesday, October 22:

- 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study on The Gospel of Luke (*Zoom**)

+ Saturday, October 25:

- We have made the difficult decision to **cancel** this year’s **Fall Festival**, scheduled for October 25; it turns out that the timing is just too difficult for our stalwart volunteers. We will look forward with hope to the return of the Fall Festival in October 2026! Thanks to **Julie Anderson, Doug McManus**, and **Pam Ostuw** for their willingness to organize this year’s extravaganza on behalf of the community.

+ Next Sunday, October 26:

- 10:30 a.m.: October Anniversary and Birthday Prayers
- 12 Noon: Saints “Icons” due to Sue Carroll for All Saints’ Exhibit

**See link in online newsletter*

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St. Dunstan’s Capital Campaign Update

“For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future.”

~ Jeremiah 29:11



On behalf of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, **thank you** to the individuals and households who have pledged their support to the 2025 St. Dunstan’s Capital Campaign, *Growing in Faith, Building the Future*. **Because of your generous support, we have exceeded our campaign goal of \$750,000: As of yesterday, our pledge total is now \$824,800. Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow!** This abundance will allow your Vestry to begin addressing other important buildings and grounds issues identified in last year’s Facility Conditions Assessment. If you would like to contribute to this campaign but have not yet completed a pledge card, we hope that you will consider making an official commitment in the near future; campaign materials are available on the table in Founders’ Hall. Look for the crane!

Faithfully,

Karen Kosiba Edwards

Carmen Petruzzi
Campaign Co-Chairs

Rosemarie Sweeney

continued

Capital Campaign Commitments as of October 18, 2025:

Patty and Randy Alexander	Madeleine Johnson
Donna Alvarez	Danette Gentile Kauffman
Julie Anderson	Robert Kosasky
Fred and Gail Atwood	Lynne Adduci Leonard
Marsha Barnes	Vince Leonard
Bob and Mimi Betz	Doug McManus and Pam Ostuw
Elin Botha	Brad Mellor
Carolyn and Stephen Bou	Kristalee and Nils Overdahl
Sue Carroll and Ray Donnelly	Claire Owen
Chuck Cash and Jackie Jones	Carmen Petruzzi
Joanne Comstock and John Wyss	David and Janet Repka
Mario di Filippo and Michelle Mesen	Fred and Louise Smoak
Nancy and Walter Douglas	Rosemarie Sweeney
Karen Kosiba Edwards	Marta and Pat Waldo
Ana Maria Espinoza and Mark MacCarthy	Kiska Williams
Brian Greer and Kris Heiberger	

Pledge Level	Number of Pledges to Date
\$1-999	3
1,000-4,999	6
5,000-9,999	4
10,000-14,999	4
15,000-19,999	2
20,000-24,999	2
25,000-49,999	3
50,000-99,999	4
100,000-149,999	2
150,000+	1

Serving this Morning

Presider and Preacher:	The Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander
Musicians:	Diane Atherton, Ulysses Squitieri, and The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir
Altar Guild:	Marsha Barnes, Augusta Cox, Ann Johnson, and Michelle Mesen
Flower Guild:	Trudy Surut
Greeters:	Julie Anderson and Connelly Anderson Gomez
Livestream Minister:	Karen Kosiba Edwards
Acolyte:	Connelly Anderson Gomez
Crucifer:	Lynne Leonard
Children's Chapel:	Julie Anderson and Jenna Monroe
Lector:	Lynne Leonard
Psalm Leader:	Michelle Mesen
Intercessor:	Cami Caudill
Lay Eucharistic Ministers:	Lynne Leonard and Michelle Mesen
Ushers:	Karen Kosiba Edwards and Carmen Petruzzi
Barista:	Fred Smoak
Vestry Member of the Day:	Janet Repka
Snack Angel:	Janet Repka

Attributions

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On the Cover*:

Jacob Wrestling

(Mixed media liturgical art by Sue Carroll)

The Epistle and Gospel:

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Psalm:

The Saint Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language,
© 2004, The Order of Saint Helena

The Prayers of the People:

Adapted from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018, Westminster John Knox Press

The Concluding Collect:

Written by Fred Atwood, Junior Warden, 2025

The Great Thanksgiving:

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Artist's Reflection: "Jacob Wrestling." Jacob had a lot to wrestle with. He was about to try to reunite with his brother - whom he'd cheated out of the family fortune - and was afraid his brother's army would destroy him and his family. So, he probably wrestled with guilt, and fear. But this story in Genesis tells us he wrestled with an angel, all night, until the angel agreed to bless him. Jacob later claimed he'd actually wrestled with God. (Potato, po-tah-to – he was somehow wrestling with the Divine.) He walked with a limp ever after, changed by the encounter. And, he was able to reconcile with his brother. My interpretation of the story reflects a quote from the great biblical scholar Amy Jill Levine. She was asked if it was proper to say we should "submit to the text" when reading scripture, as is taught in very conservative Christian traditions that say we should not try to interpret scripture, but take it as having one, fixed meaning. "NO!" she insisted. "Submit yourself to God. Wrestle with the text!" Here (on a background of silk chiffon standing in for creation) the gold ribbon stands in for the Divine, and the beat-up paper for humanity. On the paper (between them) is text from scripture in both English and Hebrew, beginning with the description in Genesis 2 of God breathing life into the human being. The last text is the story of Abraham being told to sacrifice his son - certainly a story to wrestle with.

~ Sue Carroll, *Liturgical Artist-in-Residence*

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