

# St. Philip's Episcopal Church

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II

*We, at St. Philip's Church strive to love God and love others  
in all we do.*

*St. Philip's Parish, a descendant of Old St. Philip's,  
Brunswick Town, was admitted to the Diocese of  
North Carolina on May 29, 1851.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Opening Hymn – “Shall We Gather at the River”*

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; \_\_\_\_\_  
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray; \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease; \_\_\_\_\_

1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?  
2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.  
3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.  
4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful\_ riv - er;

Gath - er with the saints\_ at the riv - er That flows by the throne of\_ God.

*Easter Acclamation*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant:* 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. **People: Amen**

*Gloria (spoken)*

**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.**

*The Collect of the Day*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **People: Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Word*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (7:55-60)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out

of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*In te, Domine, speravi*

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
**deliver me in your righteousness.**

2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
**make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
**for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
**for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
**for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.**

15 My times are in your hand; \*  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
**and in your loving-kindness save me.**

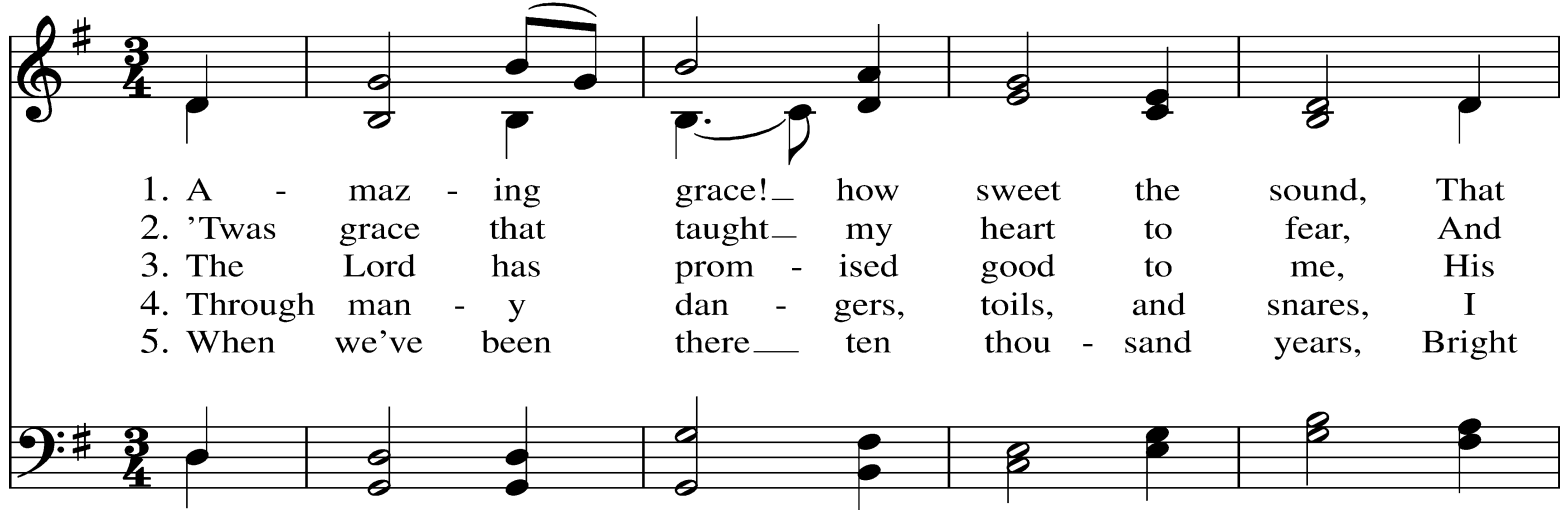
### A Reading from the First Letter Peter (2:2-10)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

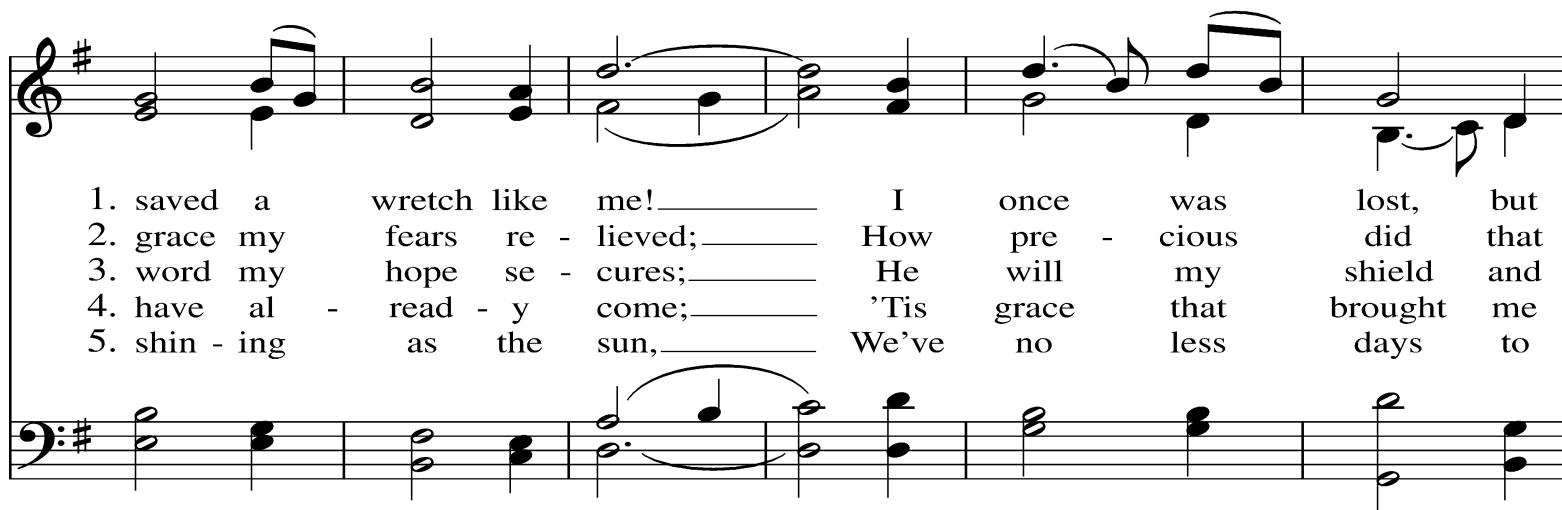
*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

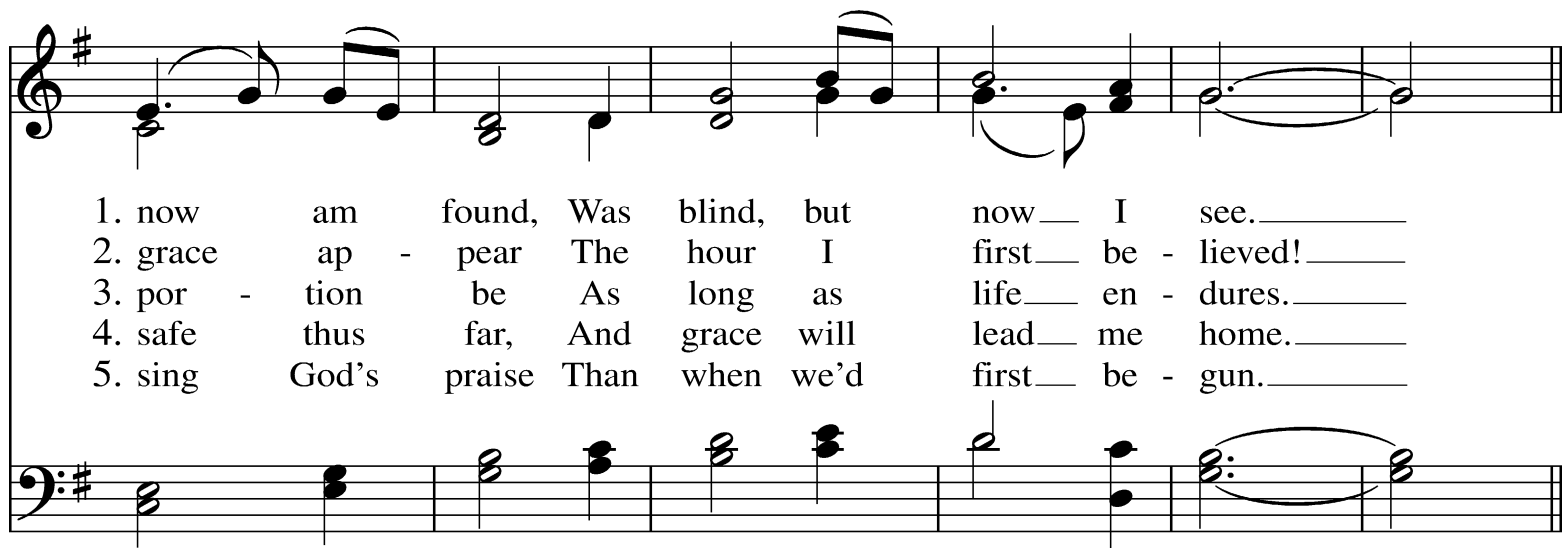
# Sequence Hymn – “Amazing Grace” v. 1-2



1. A - maz - ing grace!\_ how sweet the sound, That  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught\_ my heart to fear, And  
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 5. When we've been there\_ ten thou - sand years, Bright



1. saved a wretch like me!\_\_\_\_\_ I once was lost, but  
 2. grace my fears re - lieved;\_\_\_\_\_ How pre - cious did that  
 3. word my hope se - cures;\_\_\_\_\_ He will my shield and  
 4. have al - read - y come;\_\_\_\_\_ 'Tis grace that brought me  
 5. shin - ing as the sun,\_\_\_\_\_ We've no less days to



1. now am found, Was blind, but now\_ I see.\_\_\_\_\_  
 2. grace ap - pear The hour I first\_ be - lieved!\_\_\_\_\_  
 3. por - tion be As long as life\_ en - dures.\_\_\_\_\_  
 4. safe thus far, And grace will lead\_ me home.\_\_\_\_\_  
 5. sing God's praise Than when we'd first\_ be - gun.\_\_\_\_\_

Words: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton (1725-1807; Stanza 5, Ascr. John Rees, c. 1859. Music: *New Britain*, CM, *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. John Barnard (b. 1948). Harm. Copyright © 1982 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved.

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
(14:1-14)

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

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Mother Betty

*The Nicene Creed*

***Celebrant 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.**

## *The Prayers of the People Form IV*

*Deacon:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon:* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon:* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon:* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon:* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon:* We ask a blessing on those important to us, as we lift our prayers either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (*Pause*)

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon:* We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Lord, in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*Celebrant:* Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **People: Amen.**

*The Peace*

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

(The people then greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

## *Welcoming*

### *Offertory Sentence*

*Celebrant:* Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*(Congregation stands and sings the following with the presentation of gifts.)*

**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 Liturgy of the Eucharist*

#### *The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his raising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Celebrant and People**

**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.**

*Celebrant:* 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 the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. 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 for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant:* 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, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the blessed St. Philip and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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.*

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*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

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

*Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### *Communion*

*How to receive Holy Communion:*

*Holy Communion will be served in front of the altar. After you receive the bread you may choose one of three options regarding the wine.*

- 1. DRINK: Immediately consume your bread and step to the chalice bearer farthest from the priest serving the bread. This is the common cup designated for you to take a drink from. Dipping the bread into this cup is NOT permitted.*
- 2. INTINCT: Holding your bread, go to the first chalice bearer who is holding a small glass cup. This cup is designated for intinction (dipping) only. As you stand in front of the chalice bearer, they will offer the words of administration and you may dip your bread into the shallow cup. Please note there is only a small quantity of wine in this chalice to ensure fingers do not touch the wine.*
- 3. NO WINE: Immediately consume your bread and carefully walk past both chalices if you desire to not take part in the wine. Please know that receiving communion in one species only is still considered a full and valid communion.*

## *Post Communion Prayer*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**Celebrant and People:** Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant:* The Blessing

**People:** Amen.

*Closing Hymn – “We’re Marching to Zion” (see next page)*

*Deacon:* The Dismissal

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

***Celebrant and Preacher:*** Mother Betty Glover

***Deacon:*** Deacon Pam Hayes

***Verger:*** Ricky Evans

***Lay Eucharistic Ministers:*** Judie Ratcliffe, Ellen Wester, Aedan Barnes

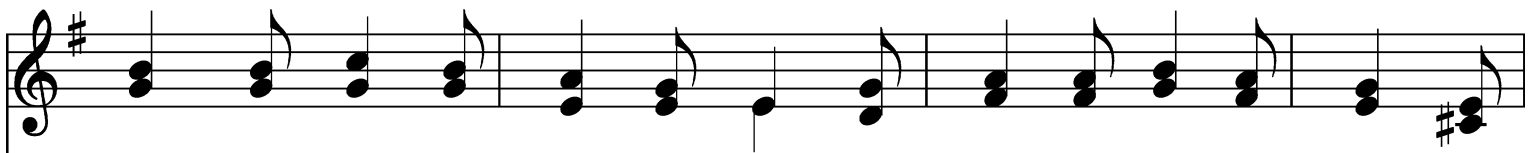
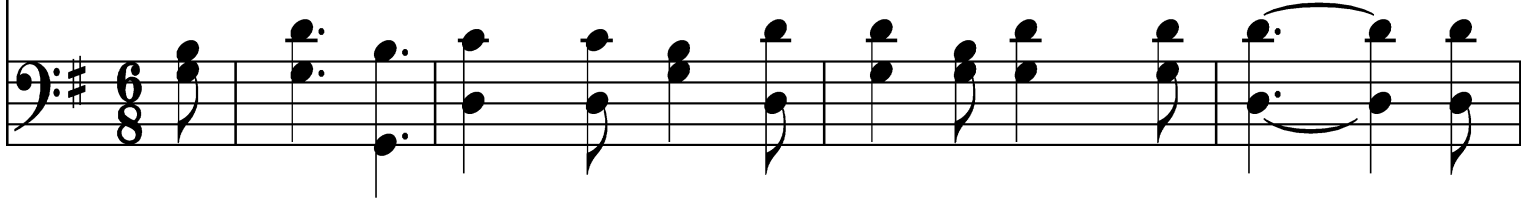
***Lay Readers:*** Judie Ratcliffe, Jane Mitchell

***Ushers:*** Dennis Courtnage, Cathie Courtnage, Jane Mitchell, Debbie Evans

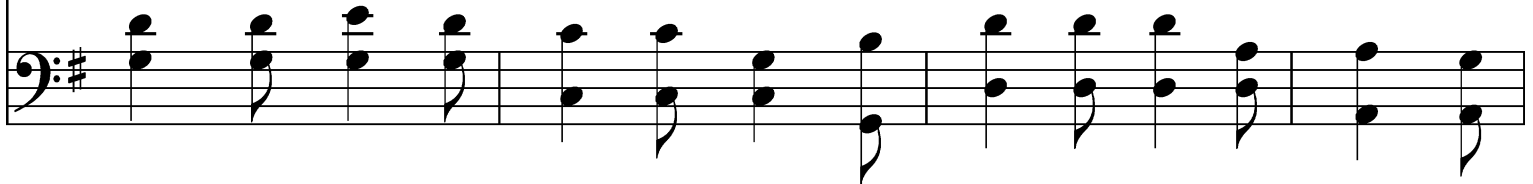
***Vestry Person of the Day:*** Tracy Baltz



1. Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known; Join  
2. Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God; But  
3. The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets; Be  
4. Then let our songs abound, And every tear be dry; We're



1. in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet ac -  
2. children of the heav'n - ly King, But children of the heav'n - ly  
3. fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly  
4. march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, We're march - ing thro' Im - man - uel's



1. cord, And thus sur - round the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.—  
2. King, May speak their joys a - broad, May speak their joys a - broad.—  
3. fields, Or walk the gold - en streets, Or walk the gold - en streets.—  
4. ground, To fair - er worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.—



We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti-ful, beau - ti-ful

We're march - ing on to Zi - on,

Zi - on; We're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on,

Zi - on, Zi - on,

The beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Robert S. Lowry (1826-1899).

## St. Philip's Contacts

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving – Bishop of East Carolina  
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### *Welcome!*

*There are many churches in our community and we are glad that you chose to join us in worship this morning. It is our hope that you find St. Philip's to be a new home if you are looking for a church, or a home away from home if you are visiting Southport!*

*We believe that God is Love, and that we are called to love both God and others as God's children. Please know that we place a premium on having a chance to get to know one another.*

*Unfortunately, Sunday mornings do not allow us that precious time together. It would be wonderful if you would mention on the visitor card (or drop us an email) that you would like to meet us for a time of conversation and coffee!*

## Vestry

Senior Warden – Paul Bailey – [paul1.bailey@outlook.com](mailto:paul1.bailey@outlook.com) (2024-2026)

Junior Warden – Bill Happer – [fishinginsouthport2022@gmail.com](mailto:fishinginsouthport2022@gmail.com)  
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