

# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## *The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

25 DECEMBER 2025  
ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

## *Saint John's Church, Mobile*

Welcome to Saint John's! If you are interested in learning more about Saint John's or becoming a member of our community, please speak with our priest or call the church office at (251) 479-5474. Our office hours are 9-2pm on Tuesdays. Outside of office hours, or in the event of a pastoral need, you can reach out to Father John Talbert at 205-354-3699. You can also contact us through our website, [www.stjohnsmobile.org](http://www.stjohnsmobile.org).

### **Prelude**

### **THE ENTRANCE RITE**

#### **Entrance Song**

*All stand at introduction to the entrance hymn. The Congregation sings the hymn as the choir and ministers of the assembly enter.*

#### **Hymn 93**

*Regent Square*

**Angels from the realms of glory**

*(see next page)*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

## Opening Acclamation

*The Celebrant says the following, and the people respond.*

Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

*The Celebrant continues*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Congregation says the Gloria*

**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 people remain standing for the Collect of the Day.*

## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 222

*The Celebrant says*

The Lord be with you.

People      **And also with you.**

Celebrant    Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Readings

*The People are seated. The first lesson, Isaiah 52:7-10, is now read*

How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation prays Psalm 98 in unison*

- 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 therein.
- 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 lesson, Hebrews 1:1-12, is now read*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."]

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 82**

*Divinum mysterium*

**Of the Father's love begotten**

*(see next page)*



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten, ere the worlds be-  
 2 O that birth for ev-er bless-ed, when the Vir-gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a-dore him; an-gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa-ther, and, O Ho-ly

gan to be, he is Al-pha and O-me-ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing,  
 prais-es sing; powers, do-min-ions, bow be-fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing,

he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa-vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex-tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un-wea-ried prais-es be; hon-or, glo-ry

are, that have been, and that fu-ture  
 world's Re-deem-er, first re-vealed his  
 earth be si-lent, ev-ery voice in  
 and do-min-ion, and e-ter-nal

years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
 sa-cred face, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
 con-cert ring, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
 vic-to-ry, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

## The Holy Gospel

*All Stand.*

*Minister* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
 according to John.

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

*The appointed Gospel, John 1:1-14, is now proclaimed.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*After the Gospel, the Minister says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

The Reverend John Talbert

## **The Nicene Creed**

BCP p. 358

*The People stand as the Celebrant stands and all join in saying:*

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**

*All may stand or sit. A minister bids these prayers of the assembly:*

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.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive unto 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.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## **The Peace**

*The Celebrant says*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*The Congregation may be seated for the announcements.*

# **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

## **The Preparation of the Gifts**

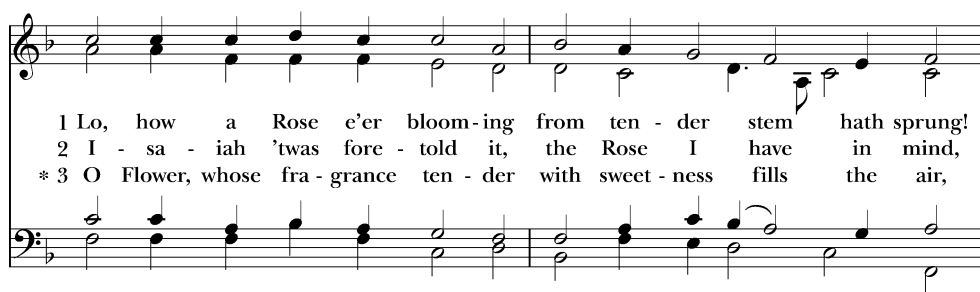
*The Congregation is seated for the Offertory*

## **Hymn 81**

*Es ist ein ros*

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming**

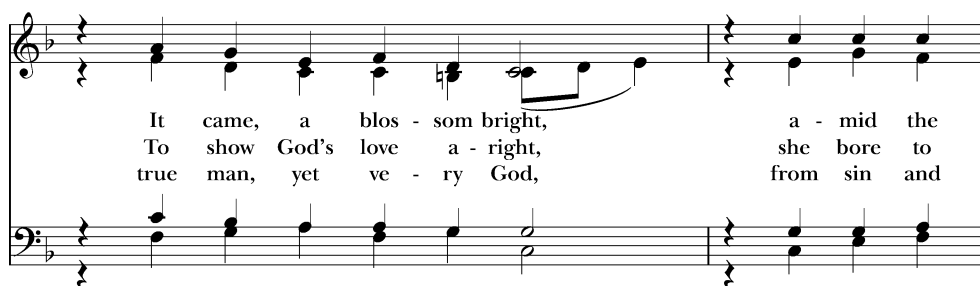
*(see next page)*



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*, St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

*The Celebrant continues*

As a part of today's service we send forth consecrated bread and wine to be administered at St. John's on December 28th.

*People* **We who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

BCP p. 367

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says*

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant 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 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*The Congregation says the Sanctus and Benedictus.*

**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.**

*The people stand or sit. Then the Celebrant 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 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,

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in Glory.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 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.

*People*      **AMEN**

*The Celebrant says*

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 Celebrant leads the Congregation in singing the Agnus Dei.*

## Hymn S161

*Hurd*

### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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

## The Invitation

*The Celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion.*

### WE ARE ALL INVITED TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, all baptized persons are invited to receive the Holy Communion. Persons who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing.*

*After receiving communion, the Congregation may be seated. Please join in singing the communion hymn*

## Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 366

*The Celebrant says*

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.

### **The Blessing**

*The Celebrant blesses the People. The People respond*

**Amen.**

*The Congregation stands and sings the retiring processional hymn*

### **Hymn 99**

*Go tell it on the mountain*

**Go tell it on the mountain**

*(see next page)*

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their  
2 The shep - herds feared and  
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing trem - bled man - ger o'er when the si - lent lo! a - ble flocks above the Christ by the night, earth born, be - rang and



*Repeat Refrain*

hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

# The Dismissal

*The Celebrant dismisses the saying*

*Minister* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

# Postlude

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## THIS WEEK AT SAINT JOHN'S:

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Thurs., Dec.25	11:00AM Holy Eucharist Christmas Day
Next Sunday, Dec. 28	10:00AM Holy Communion: Christmas 1
	11:15AM Fellowship time in the Great Hall

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### THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

are given by  
Kathe Gieseler  
to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of  
Ruth Love Morgret

THE POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS ARE IN THE INSERT

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### RECENT ATTENDANCE:

36	November 30, Advent 1
37	December 7, Advent 2
35	December 14, Advent 3

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**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

We lift up to you members of this church family, especially:

Bootsie Cieutat, Eddy Velaski, Julie Garner, Pat Fulford, Marie Brown, Neva Bache, David Rich, Bob Anderson, Helen Guthrie, Mike and Frances Barbour, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jayson Chestang, and Mary Catherine Warren.

We pray for our family and friends, especially:

Steve and Janice Garner, Frank Brown, JoAnn McPhearson, Chris Lion, Jeff Bishop, Colin Guthrie, Alilee Pillman, Sheila Velaski, Andy Williams, Nadine Evans, Calvert Johnson, Brenda Goolsby, Larry DeBert, Anne Redd, Donnie Chestang, Louis Bell, Lester Taylor: Emily Brown, Dennis Clardy, Sarah Guthrie, Morris Levy, Joey Adams, Judy Lynch, John Knight, Adam Strong, Angie Leon, David Hamilton, Sheila Cassity Granger, Barbara Bonner, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Peggy Sheffield, Eddie Hun, Katelynn Tillman, Karen Twilley, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg, Betty Williams, Latecia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy Michel, Paul Nelson.

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### **THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN'S**

The Rt. Reverend J. Russell. Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*

The Reverend John Talbert, *Rector* ([frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org))

Mr. Louis F. Daniel, *organist & choir director* ([music@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:music@stjohnsmobile.org))

Ms. Kathe Gieseler, *financial secretary* ([finance@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:finance@stjohnsmobile.org))

Dr. Nikki Shaw, *office volunteer* ([office@stjohnsmobile.org](mailto:office@stjohnsmobile.org))

### **THE VESTRY AND WARDENS OF ST. JOHN'S**

Class of 2026: Ms. Helen Guthrie. *and* Ms. Kathe Gieseler, *clerk*

Class of 2027: Ms. Connie McLean, *senior warden*, *and* Mr. Eddy Velaski.

Class of 2028: Mr. Hugh Tomlin, *junior warden*, *and* Ms. Janet Buckley  
*and* Ms. Cindy Gass, *treasurer*.