



The Episcopal Church Of The Good Shepherd
Venice, Florida

May 3, 2026

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)
The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two – 10:00 A.M.**



Welcome

Voluntary

Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn

Holy God We Praise Thy Name

Hymnal 366

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Collect for Purity

Presider: 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.**

Song of Praise

Gloria in Excelsis

Hymnal S 280

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson Acts 7:55-60

Reader: A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

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.**

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In te, Domine, speravi

Choir:

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 de-liver me.

All:

**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.

Choir:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And will be forever. Amen.

The Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 2:2-10

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Peter.

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.

The Holy Gospel John 14:1-14

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

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."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon**Fr. John Warfel**

After the sermon, the people remain seated and observe a time of silent reflection on the Sermon.

Nicene Creed

All stand, as able

**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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

People stand or kneel, as able

Brothers and Sisters, once we were not a people, but now we are God's people. Let us pray to our good God, saying, "Make your face to shine upon us, *and in your loving-kindness save us.*"

In you, O Lord, does your Church take refuge. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to do great works in Jesus' name. May your Church glorify you in all our doings.
Silence.

Make your face to shine upon us,
And in your loving-kindness save us.

Ancient of Days, rescue the innocent from the hands of those who persecute them. Hold in your strong hands the oppressed and the abused.
Silence.

Make your face to shine upon us,
And in your loving-kindness save us.

God, our strong rock, give us eyes to see your hand at work in our world. Lead us and guide us that we may be good stewards of your creation.

Silence.

Make your face to shine upon us,

And in your loving-kindness save us.

Tower of Strength, assure those who are unemployed or living in poverty that they are precious in your sight.

Silence.

Make your face to shine upon us,

And in your loving-kindness save us.

Merciful God, incline your ear to those in need of deliverance. Calm the troubled hearts of the suffering and the sorrowful, of the sick and the anxiety-plagued.

Silence.

Make your face to shine upon us,

And in your loving-kindness save us.

Jesus, the health of the world, pour out your balm on our souls and the souls of all in pain or sorrow. Be the source of life for all people. We pray for those on our ongoing prayer list: Victoria, Brett, Carole & Tony, Don, Mary Rose, Wayne, Marvin, Holly, Brittany, Di, Herbie, Jessica, Becky, Joseph, Jerry and Dandy, Granddaughter Stephanie and baby, Charles, Mary, Ed, Philip, Keni & Parents, Jim, Jeff, Ingrid and Libby and We also pray for those on today's prayer sheet. Are there others?

We remember those celebrating their birthday this week: Bob Childers, Derek Henwood, Margorie Dellecker, Maggie Buonarosa, Mary Castell, Nancy Popovec, Dee Clark, Donna Perkins and Rusty Shelley.

The Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle are given to the Glory of God by the Parish Family of Good Shepherd.

God of truth, we commend the dying and the dead into your hands. We rejoice in Jesus' promise that he has prepared for us a place in your eternal home.

Silence.

Make your face to shine upon us.

And in your loving-kindness save us.

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace *(All stand, if able)*

Presider: 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.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

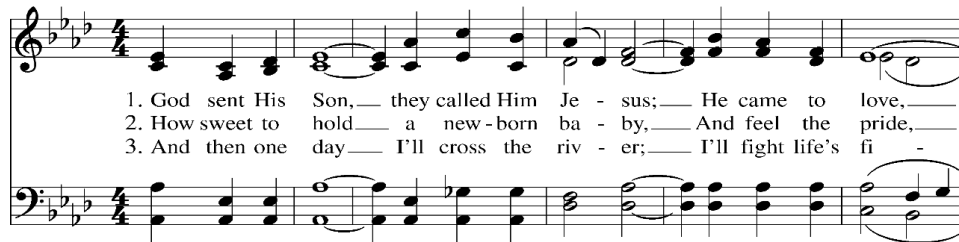
The Offertory

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

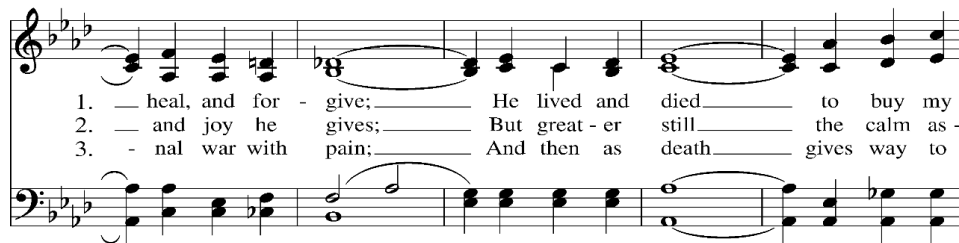
Offertory Anthem

Because He Lives

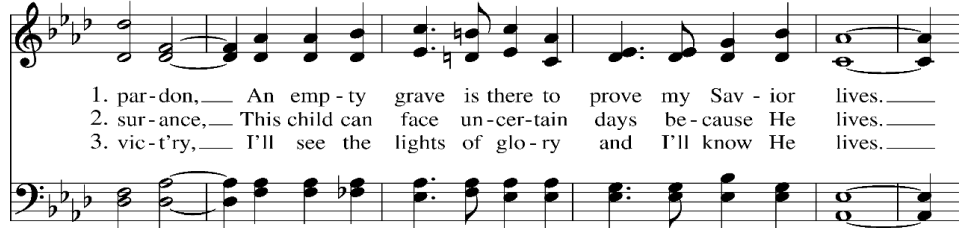
William Gaither



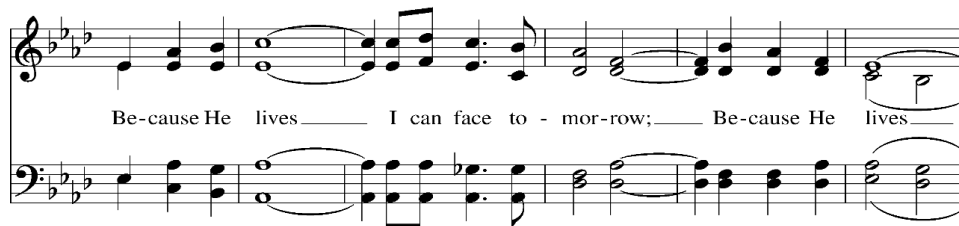
1. God sent His Son, — they called Him Je - sus; — He came to love, —
2. How sweet to hold — a new - born ba - by, — And feel the pride, —
3. And then one day — I'll cross the riv - er; — I'll fight life's fi -



1. — heal, and for - give; — He lived and died — to buy my
2. — and joy he gives; — But great - er still — the calm as -
3. — nal war with pain; — And then as death — gives way to



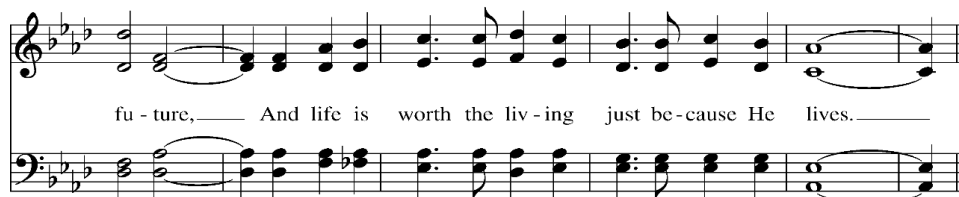
1. par-don, — An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives. —
2. sur - ance, — This child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause He lives. —
3. vic - t'ry, — I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know He lives. —



Be - cause He lives — I can face to - mor - row; — Be - cause He lives —



— all fear is gone; — Be - cause I know — He holds the



fu - ture, — And life is worth the liv - ing just be - cause He lives. —

(Sung by the people, standing while offerings are presented and placed on the altar.)

**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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(People remain standing, as able)*

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 him 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.

The Proper Preface (chanted by Presider)

But chiefly we are 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 rising 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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *(sung by All)*

Hymnal S-130

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, 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 kneel as able)

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

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." ✠

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ✠

Presider: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Presider: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also ✠ that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

The People: AMEN.

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

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever 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**

Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.

Presider: 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.

All are welcome to receive Communion

Communion Hymns **One Bread, One Body**

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.**

- 1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.
one Lord.**
- 2. Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.
One Lord.**
- 3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.
One Lord.**

Peace is Flowing Like a River

- 1. Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me.
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.**
- 2. Love is flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me.
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.**
- 3. Healing's flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me.
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.**
- 4. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Visitors

Post Communion Prayer *(People stand or kneel, as able)*

Presider: Let us pray.

All: 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.

Processional Hymn **Praise The Lord Through Every Nation** **Hymnal 484**

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Voluntary **How Great Thou Art** **Carl Boberg**

We welcome Cynthia Ruppert as our Organist today, while Chuck is away.



Birthdays

May

- 3 – Bob Childers
Derek Henwood
Marjorie Dellecker
- 4 - Maggie Buonarosa
Mary Castell
Nancy Popovec
- 5 – Dee Clark
- 8 – Donna Perkins
Rusty Shelley

Anniversaries

None

May 3-9, 2026
Good Shepherd Welcomes All!
We're glad you're here!

If you are new, we invite you to fill out a WELCOME CARD found in the back of the hymnal and at the WELCOME DESK in the entry. Cards may be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher.



If you are a first-time visitor to Good Shepherd, we welcome you! At announcement time, if you are comfortable, we invite you to introduce yourself.

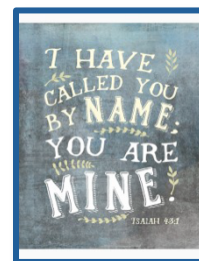
We also invite you to join us at coffee hour immediately after our 10 a.m. service. Please sit at our Visitor table and our Hospitality team will serve you coffee and goodies and then spend some time getting to know you.

Would you like to be listed in our Good Shepherd Parish Directory?

If so, please complete the yellow Directory Sign Up card that is located at our Connections Center near the garden doors at the back of our Parish Hall.



See Nancy Fees to have a photo taken for the directory



Name Tags

If you would like a Good Shepherd name tag, please put your name on the list at the Connections Center. Your completed tag will be available at the table near the Welcome Desk the next Sunday.

PRAYERS - May 3-9, 2026

We pray for those on our ongoing prayer list: Victoria, Brett, Carole & Tony, Don, Mary Rose, Wayne, Marvin, Holly, Brittany, Di, Herbie, Jessica, Becky, Joseph, Jerry and Dandy, Granddaughter Stephanie and baby, Charles, Mary, Ed, Philip, Keni & Parents, Jim, Jeff, Ingrid and Libby

SERVING OR LIVING IN HARM'S WAY: Robert Matern, Kevin Sweet, Max Wilson, Matthew Stricker, Sam Blair, Mason Roush, Chris Hoffman, Joseph Sharpe, James Kilroe, and Matthew Kilroe.

FOR OUR DIOCESE AND COMPANION DIOCESES:

The Diocese of Southwest Florida— The Rt. Rev. Douglas F. Scharf, Our Companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic, Companion Diocese of Georgia, Companion Diocese of South Carolina, Companion Diocese of Western Louisiana.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS: St. Mary's, Dade City; St. John's, Brooksville; St. Peter's, Plant City; St. John the Divine, Sun City Center; Grace Church, Tampa; St. Andrew's, Tampa; St. Chad's, Tampa; St. Clement's, Tampa, and St. Francis', Tampa.

The Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle are given to the Glory of God by the Parish Family of Good Shepherd.

Sign up for flower or candle dedications in the white binder located at the CONNECTIONS CENTER near the garden doors in the Parish Hall.

Weekly Email Blast - If you do not receive the weekly email blast & would like to be added, please contact Nancy Fees at communication@goodshepherdvenicefl.org or call the church office 941-497-7286.

The Parish Office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

When the office is closed, you may leave a voice message by telephone or email us. The office phone number is 941-497-7286. The email address - office@goodshepherdvenicefl.org.

If you are calling with a pastoral care emergency after hours, please leave a message on the church office voicemails. Voicemails are monitored overnight and on weekends. OR, you may call any of our Clergy directly at the numbers below if you need assistance, support, and prayer.

Fr. John Warfel at (845) 548-9064
 Archdeacon Michael Kitt at (847) 525-5546
 Deacon Rich Wilson at (407) 461-2109
 Deacon John Riherd at (503) 753-5115

This Week at Good Shepherd
Fifth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY 05/03 Holy Eucharist Rite I – 8 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist Rite II – 10 a.m.
 Men's AA Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY 05/04 No Scheduled Events

TUESDAY 05/05 Women's AA Meeting – 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 05/06 All Faiths Food Bank 10:00 a.m.
 Centering Prayer – 3:00 p.m.

THURSDAY 05/07 Good Shepherd Clergy Meeting 8:00 a.m.
 Memorial Garden Crew – 8 a.m.
 Morning Prayer Live Streamed with Deacon Rich – 9:15 a.m.
 Women's Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
 Choir Practice – 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY 05/08 Creative Design Outreach - 9:30 a.m.

SATURDAY 05/09 Altar Guild & Flower Guild – 9:30 a.m.
 Saturday Holy Eucharist – 5:00 p.m.

Serving in Ministry at Good Shepherd
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

	Rite I – 8 a.m.	Rite II – 10 a.m.
Presider Preaching	Fr. John Warfel Fr. John Warfel	Fr. John Warfel Fr. John Warfel
Assisting	Deacon Rich Wilson	Deacon Rich Wilson
Server Acolyte Crucifer Acolyte	Steve Eibling	Carole LaBate Degen Sayer
1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Prayers of the People	Barbara Davis Steve Eibling Deacon	Ed Silva/ Liz Bosch Deacon
Prayer Team		EK Beall/Elaine Hedrick/Liz Bosch
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Greeters		Mary Ann Medhurst/ Fred McKinley
Ushers	Elizabeth Norton	Jeff Cox/ Maureen Bentley
Tech Team	Sound – Bob Sawyer/Bob Tumbleston	Cameras – Maria Voreh CamCorder – Peter Walker/Paul Altimier Sound – Bob Sawyer Director – Bridget Blackburn
Secure Building		Carol Gargon