

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light;
Splendor the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!
Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking the bread, giving us glory; Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!
Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!
City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

The Lord is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

\*HYMN 232

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**EASTER HYMN** 

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Boyd Lien

Source of all Joy, today you receive your Son back into the light of life, while we stand by amazed at the wild dance of heaven that interrupts and overthrows the powers of earthly sin and death. You asked everything of Jesus, and he gave it all. You ask so little of us in return, and yet we withdraw our energies when the work is long and difficult. You ask us to speak for the silent, and we only whisper, afraid to be heard. You ask us to see the world clearly, in all its flaws, its violence and apathy, and to love it anyway, just as you do. Forgive us our meager faith in the face of Christ's life-emptying grace on the cross.

\*SILENT PRAYER

#### \*DECLARATION OF PARDON

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we find comfort that there is no sinner beyond redemption, no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so deep that God cannot heal. God accepts. God forgives. God redeems. God sets free.

We rejoice in this gift, this love, this unmerited grace. In Christ, we find our hope and our home, we find community and reconciliation. May our gratitude and thanksgiving be shown in how we live our lives in him and speak his name with reverence and awe. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND LABORS

Dr. Casto-Waters

**OFFERTORY** 

Thine Is the Glory

Kenneth J. Grinnell (b. 1952)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (You may find the text in your hymnal: 609)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures high and low; Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Mr. Dixon Revell

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Dr. Casto-Waters

Spirit of the Living Lord, give us imaginations to see ourselves before the empty tomb this day; give us hearts to expand in joy as the resurrection is revealed; enable us to remember and hold onto Christ's story of faithful obedience that brought us here; and give us new insights to open our eyes to the wonders of the Kingdom that still await us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:1-12

SERMON

ANTHEM Easter Anthem

William Billings (1746—1800)

The Lord is ris'n indeed! Hallelujah!

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

And did he rise? Did he rise? Hear it, ye nations! Hear it, O ye dead!

He rose, He rose, He burst the bars of death and triumphed o'er the grave.

Then I rose. Then first humanity triumphant passed the crystal ports of light,

And seized Eternal Youth. Man all immortal hail, hail.

Heaven all lavish of strange gifts to man, Thine all the glory, man's the boundless bliss.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*HYMN 826 Lift High the Cross CRUCIFER

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION Hallelujah from *Messiah* 

George F. Handel (1685—1759)

**POSTLUDE** 

Toccata from *Symphony No. 5 (abridged)* 

Charles Marie Widor (1844—1937)

\*All who are able please stand

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**Cover**—Cover Art by Mary Houston

# **Participating in Worship**

**Preacher** Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

*Worship Leaders* Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Rev. Boyd Lien Mr. Dixon Revell

Musicians

Dr. Wayne Lord Chancel Choir Chris Kristich, Trumpet Rand Sayno, Trumpet Jessica Wilkerson, Trombone Chris Vail, Trombone Michael Katterjohn, Timpani

> Acolyte Letty Revell

Friendship Pad Pick-up Ed Moody

#### Ushers

Jim Norvell Andy Magruder Richard Hinman Jim Trotter Steve Sanders Kirby Yawn Benton Johnson

#### **STAFF**

Reverend Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters, Pastor, ext. 303
Reverend Nadine Ellsworth-Moran, Associate Pastor, ext. 301
Reverend Boyd Lien, Parish Associate, ext. 314
Dr. Wayne Lord, Organist/Choirmaster, ext. 315
Mrs. Jenny Davison, Children's Music Assistant
Ms. Joy Maple, Director of Christian Education, ext. 305
Mrs. Anna Sanders, Director of Mother's Day Out and Preschool, ext. 309
Mrs. Dawn McCraith, Director of Operations, ext. 302
Mrs. Becky Godbee, Communications Liaison, ext. 300
Mrs. Jenn Harrison, Financial Assistant, ext. 307
Mr. Leonard Jones, Facilities Manager
Ms. Helen Moss, Custodian
Ms. Ramona Ballard, Custodian
Mr. Tyler Cashin, Audio/Visual Technician
Administrative Office 706-733-2275



# **SESSION (ELDERS)**

Denise Rosenzweig, Clerk

| Class of 2025                                   | Class of 2026                  | Class of 2027                                   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Bill Davison<br>Jennifer Frantom                | Shell Berry<br>Indee Few       | Dana Cook-Cheape<br>Benton Johnson              |
| David Freeman                                   | John Franklin                  | Richard Sasnett                                 |
| Jean McKnight<br>Amanda Mills<br>Richard Morgan | Jed Howington<br>Cheryl Wilson | Charlene Sizemore<br>Bob Speaks<br>Bennett Yort |

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

Linda Boyd, Moderator

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|--|--|---|
| <b>Class of 2025</b><br>Linda Boyd<br>Hubert Cooke                     | <b>Class of 2026</b><br>Jamie Driver<br>Jerry Howington  | Class of 2027<br>Alice Bielewicz<br>Mary Anne Frankli   |
| Judy Brigham<br>Jan Markle<br>Carla Owen<br>Gail Owens<br>Harry Snowdy | Sumner Markwalter<br>Jones Miller<br>Mary-Meghan Olmo<br>Brannon Sell<br>Sandra Wade<br>Susan Wilson | Tommy Jones<br>Lillian Magruder<br>Myra Naglich<br>Patty Reece<br>Patrick Wells<br>Bette Wright |



**Hearing assistance.** Hearing aid wearers with a "T" (telecoil) setting can now hear the service broadcast directly through their hearing aids. Others desiring hearing assistance may check out a portable receiver / headset.

# **ACTIVE STEPHEN LEADERS**

Myra Naglich Mandy Boland Jones Miller

# **ACTIVE STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Jamie Driver
Becky Godbee
Joy Maple
Barbara Miller
Sonny Reece
Indee Few
Carol Turner
Kathryn McLeod
Ann Overstreet
Clay Stallworth