Welcome to St. John's Church



The Seventh Sunday of Easter: *May 24th, 2020*

The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. Consequently, we have heeded the recommendations of our Bishops, the Standing Committee, and our government to suspend public events, to aid in the mitigation of the coronavirus in our state. We are "live streaming" our 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship on the St. John's Facebook page, at

https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT/.

Our church buildings are closed.

The Parish Office is closed.

The Parish Administrator is working mostly from home, as directed.

Parishioners are asked to contact her by office email or voice mail.

stjohnschurch@snet.net ~ 860.868.2527

PO Box 1278, Washington, CT. 06793

Liturgy notes:

EASTER: Liturgical practices at St. John's have changed during the Season of Easter in a variety of ways, to reflect the theme of renewal of life and the focus on Christ's resurrection. For instance, the opening acclamation is different, viz. "Allelulia, Christ is risen. ."

Moreover at St. John's, we are using Rite II throughout the season, with its shift of focus away from Christ's death and sacrifice onto the larger history of the salvation story. The High Altar has been moved out, with the celebrant facing the people, as symbolic of God's immanent presence among us as we consecrate the bread and wine at Eucharist

We return to using the Prayers of the People written by Bishop Wolf, which change weekly to reflect the lessons of the day. The priest dresses more celebratory, wearing cassock/alb, stole, and chasuble, and again chants the Sursum Corda and Preface.

On Easter Sunday, the Priest chanted the Gospel and the congregation renewed their Baptismal Vows *in lien* of the Nicene Creed. Incense may be used. 'Christ our Passover' has become our seasonal Fraction Anthem. The silver vessels on the Altar have replaced the simpler ceramic Chalice and Paten used during Lent, and the brass candlesticks have returned to their places. Sanctus bells will be continued, and flowers will appear at the High Altar again. And until the day when our parishioners can again all come to the church physically to worship as one, the basket of blessed Palms, will be visible in the live streaming of our Services as a prophetic symbol of that day, yet to come.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24th, 2020

Order of Worship

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship

PRELUDE Meditation Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

For All Medical Professionals

Sanctify, O Lord, those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and to the prevention of disease and pain. Strengthen them by your life- giving Spirit, that by their ministries the health of the community may be promoted and your creation glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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.**



COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BCP, p. 226

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES [Acts 1:6-14]

In this reading we hear of Jesus' promise of empowerment for mission by the Holy Spirit, after which he is envisioned being lifted up into heaven. The author of Acts pictures the missionary work of the church spreading outward from Jerusalem. In obedience to Jesus' command, the disciples return to the city and, with others of Jusus' followers and relatives, prayerfully await the coming of the Spirit. Although Jesus will one day appear again, his community now has a ministry to bring the good news to the world.

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Response

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The choir chants the psalm.

PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36

Exsurgat Deus

BCP p. 676

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; * let those who hate him flee before him.

2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; * as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; * let them also be merry and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; * YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him! 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, * God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; * but the rebels shall live in dry places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, * when you marched through the wilderness,

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, * at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; * you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; * in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; * sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; * he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; * his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! * the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER [4:12-14; 5:6-11]

In this lesson we learn that when Christians find it necessary to suffer for their faith. They are to know that they are sharing in Christ's sufferings. The can even find a cause for rejoicing, recognizing that this may well be a sign that God's Spirit is with them. The advice was given during an outbreak of persecution of Christians in Asia Minor. The disciples are urged to make sure that they only suffer in a right cause and are then unashamed to confess Christ's name.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. **Amen**.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.



THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN [17:1-11]

In our gospel Jesus asks the Father that his glory may be made fully known to his Son, and he prays for his disciples, through whom this glory now shines. These words are part of what is called Jesus' high-priestly prayer offered before his death. God's glory has been shown forth in Jesus' ministry and will be radiant in his crucifixion and resurrection. Now and afterward Jesus' followers will realize that all which Jesus has given to them has come from the Father.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given

me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Geoff Hahneman

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 358

The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., and confirmed in 381 A.D., the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.

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

Leader: Let us offer our prayers in the Name of Jesus, who dwelt among us, died and rose again for our salvation, and ascended into the heavenly realm, responding, "Hear us, ascended Lord."

Leader: We pray for Suheil, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis, Bishop of Rome; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian, our Bishop; Geoffrey, our Priest, and all members of this congregation, that our hands may feed the poor and tend the sick, that we may create a church where all are welcomed and where visitors are seen as blessings, and that we may ascend beyond earthly hesitations to grasp the divine inspiration that is implanted within us; let us pray.

People: Hear us, ascended Lord.

Leader Remembering also Antonio, Secretary General of the United Nations, Donald, our President, Ned our Governor, James, the First Selectman of the town of Washington, our Congress and our Courts, and for all who exercise leadership in governments, that they may take seriously the authority invested in them, leaving partisanship behind, and exercising governance that best responds to the people of our nation and world; let us pray.

Leader: Hear us, ascended Lord.

Leader: In this time of social isolation, where opportunities for deep self-reflection may bring to mind hurtful ghosts of the past, we pray for those who fear the discovery of secret sins and the private guilt that has many names, that they may have confidence in the priestly gift of reconciliation, the courage to admit our shortcomings, and the greater courage to accept God's tender forgiveness; let us pray.

People: Hear us, ascended Lord.

Leader: For those of us who are merely inconvenienced in this pandemic, may we remain mindful and responsive to those whose lives have been devastated, and take active roles in seeking an end to violence and abuse and unemployment and despair, and to all things that harm God's creation and rob humanity of its inherent dignity; let us pray,

People: Hear us, ascended Lord.

Leader: For the sick, that they may be comforted in their times of need, derive strength from the prayers of others, and be supported by the presence of family and friends, especially all suffering from the COVID-19 virus as well as those on our parish prayer list, including Ed and Zemma White, Kia Handy, Lorne Craner, Caroline Thompson, Katy Coe, Eileen Hearn, Dick and Connie Kaylor, Jay Lafleur in hospice care, the staff and clients at Aspetuck Animal Hospital in Marbledale, and all who are housebound especially Janet Chenery and Ken Hecken.

(Please take a moment to add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

We also pray for those who tend to the needs of the sick and suffering; that they may be renewed by God's love and that they minister from the strength of Christ's healing power, and reveal the light of hope that never fades away; that we may place our lives in the sacred heart of Jesus, who claims us as his own, and reveals his glory through our lives; let us pray,

People: Hear us, ascended Lord.

Leader: On this Memorial Day Weekend, when we traditionally honor all who showed no greater love than to lay down their lives for others, may we also acknowledge new heroes among health care providers, first responders, and essential service employees who have lost their lives during this pandemic, and all who have died and whom we commend to eternal life, let us pray.

People: Hear us, ascended Lord.

Leader: In thanksgiving for our families and friends, and for the communion of all the Saints, we continue our prayers, praying together the Prayer in the Midst of a Pandemic.

Leader and People pray together

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

May we who are merely inconvenienced at this time,

remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,

remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,

remember those must choose between preserving their health or paying their rent

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children while the schools are closed, remember those who have no other options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,

remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing money in the tumult of the economic market,

remember those who have no savings at all.

May we who must self-quarantine at home,

remember those who have no homes.

And finally as fear grips our nation,

let us choose love during this time of pandemic when we cannot physically wrap our arms around one and another,

let us find other ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors in our communities. **Amen**.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, p. 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 360

The Priest alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion.

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. All are invited to make a gift to support the ministry of St. John's by visiting http://stjohnswashington.com/stewardship/



OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

(Ephesians 5:2)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

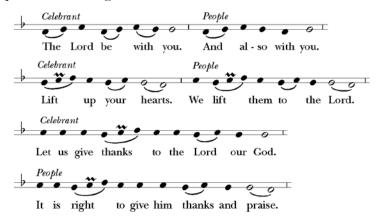
The Lord ascendeth up on high

Michael Praetorius

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

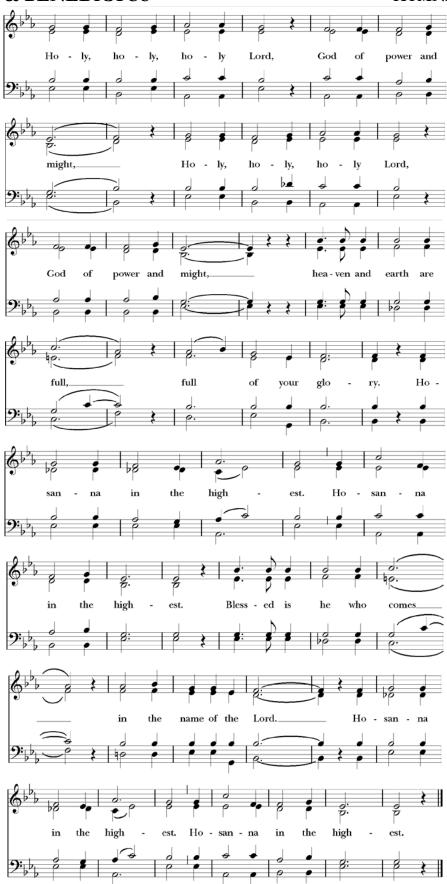
In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

The people remain standing.



Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues

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 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:



We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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;

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 St. John, our Patron, 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:

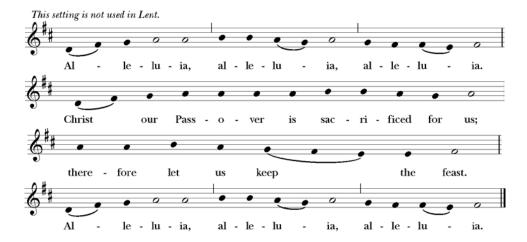
THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 INVITATION BCP, p. 364

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

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.

THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live and die in your love. Amen. As a symbol of our unity in community during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the bread and the wine will be returned to the earth.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

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 Priest gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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THE DISMISSAL HYMNAL S175



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al-le-lu - ia,





POSTLUDE

Litany of Joy

Alfred V. Fedak.

Assisting With This Morning's Liturgy

The Reverend Dr. Geoff Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge Celebrant

Music Director Dr. Marguerite Mullee

Organist Jon Lafleur Lector Donna Castaner **Cantors** Dr. Marguerite Mullee

Donna Castaner

Staff

Priest-in-Charge Fr. Geoff Hahneman Music Director Dr. Marguerite Mullee

Parish Administrator Sarah Eyre Foundation Administrator Joan Burgess

Vestry

Warden David Gillespie Susan McFeely Warden Clerk Joan Beattie Treasurer Larry Littlefield Assistant Treasurer Hunter Brown

Class of 2020 Class of 2021 Class of 2022 Rebecca Lambert Robert Futh Sara Coles Darcy Campbell Larry Littlefield Mary Davis Charles Dubow MB Witt Andris Kalnins

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