

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

April 4, 2026

8PM Vigil and First Mass of Easter

TRINITY CHURCH

Worship in the Beauty of Holiness ✠ Service and Hospitality in the Name of Christ

LIGHTING OF NEW FIRE & PASCHAL CANDLE

The Great Vigil begins in the utter darkness of the tomb. Out of this darkness, the New Fire is kindled, representing the unconquerable life of the Resurrection. From this fire, the Paschal Candle is lit—symbolizing the Light of the Risen Christ—which is then carried into the sanctuary to scatter the darkness of sin and death forever.

Ministers gather in the nave in silence. In the darkness, the Easter Fire is kindled. The celebrant says,

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Celebrant sings the following prayer:

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant traces the inscription on the Paschal Candle and pierces it with nails of incense saying,

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end. His are the times and the ages. To him be glory and dominion through all ages of eternity. Amen.

Through his holy and glorious wounds may Christ the Lord guard and protect us.

The Paschal Candle is lit from the fire and is then led in procession to the chancel by the celebrant, who pauses three times singing,

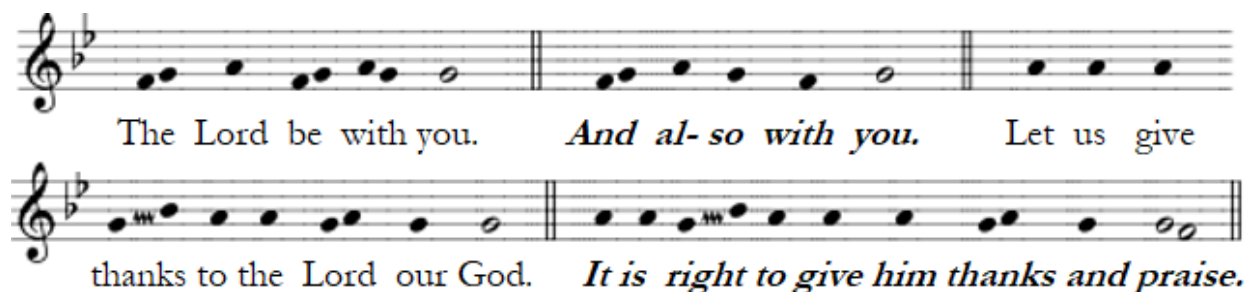
The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

THE EXSULTET

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people. All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*



It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice to praise you, the invisible, almighty and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin and by his blood delivered your faithful people. This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry land. This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell and rose victorious from the grave. How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and lovingkindness to us, that to redeem a slave you gave a Son. How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred and brings peace and concord. How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined, and man is reconciled to God. Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who give his light to all creation and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them,

and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

READING

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself

over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.’

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.’

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

COLLECT

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

RENEWAL OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in the Holy Catholic Church.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.*

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

*He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Celebrant asperges the people with water in remembrance of their baptisms.

THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Lord have mercy. ***Lord have mercy.***

Christ have mercy. ***Christ have mercy.***

Lord have mercy. ***Lord have mercy.***

Holy Mary, Mother of God, ***pray for us.***

Saints Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael, ***pray for us.***

All ye holy Angels and Archangels, ***pray for us.***

Saints Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ***pray for us.***

Saints Moses, Miriam, and Aaron, ***pray for us.***

Saints Ruth and Naomi, ***pray for us.***

Saint John the Baptist, ***pray for us.***

All ye Holy Patriarchs, Matriarchs, and Prophets, ***pray for us.***

Saints Peter, Paul and Andrew, ***pray for us.***

Saints Matthew, Thomas, Philip, and James, ***pray for us.***

Saints Simon, Jude, Bartholomew, and Matthias, ***pray for us.***

Saint Mary Magdalene, ***pray for us.***

Saints Patrick of Ireland and Augustine of Canterbury, ***pray for us.***

All ye holy Apostles, Evangelists, and Disciples of the Lord, ***pray for us.***

Saints Stephen and Lawrence, ***pray for us.***

Saint Thecla, ***pray for us.***

Saint Alban, ***pray for us.***

Saint Martin Luther King, ***pray for us.***

Saint Oscar Romero, ***pray for us.***

All ye holy Martyrs, ***pray for us.***

Saints Ambrose and Augustine, ***pray for us.***

Saints Jerome and Gregory the Great, ***pray for us.***

Saint Nicholas of Myra, ***pray for us.***

Saints Dorothy Day and Elizabeth Ann Seton, ***pray for us.***

All ye holy Bishops, Confessors, Doctors, Priests, and Levites, ***pray for us.***

Saints Benedict and Scholastica, ***pray for us.***

Saints Brigid and Hildegard of Bingen, ***pray for us.***

Saints Francis and Clare, ***pray for us.***

Saint Juan Diego, ***pray for us.***

All ye holy Monks, Hermits, Virgins, and Widows, *pray for us.*
All ye holy Cloud of Witnesses, Saints of God, *pray for us.*
From all evil and from all sin, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
From everlasting damnation, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
Through your holy incarnation, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
Through your baptism, fasting, and temptation, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
Through your cross and passion, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
Through your death and burial, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
Through your holy Resurrection, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
Through your wondrous ascension, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, *Good Lord, deliver us.*
At your coming again in glory, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

Lead us to true repentance,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.
Strengthen us for your service,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.
Grant to your Church the gifts of peace and unity,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.
Bestow your peace throughout the world,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.
Guide the leaders of this nation,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.
Comfort those in sickness and adversity,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

✠ Grant eternal rest to the departed,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

Bring us with all your saints to your heavenly kingdom,
We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

○ Christ hear us,
○ *Christ, graciously hear us.*



FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST OF EASTER

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

*The Paschal Greeting and Opening Fanfare of the Gloria
announce the joyous arrival of Easter as the church is lighted*

GLORIA (*found in service music booklet*).

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All may be seated.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 6:3-11

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 114 *In exitu Israel*

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

GREAT ALLELUIA

The Great Alleluia of Easter is repeated 3 times.



V: Al- le- lu- ia, al- le- lu ia, al- le- lu ia!

R: Al- le- lu- ia, al- le- lu ia, al- le- lu- ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

Celebrant: ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is

going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All may be seated.

HOMILY

Fr. Raul, Rector

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Hymn 207

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

All may share with one another a sign of peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

All may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERTORY SENTENCE

All stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Lord, make us servants of your peace*

Hymn 593

During the offertory hymn, you are invited to bring forward your offering for the support of Christ's Holy Church and place it in the plate in front of the altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer B

The Lord be with you. *And al- so with you.* Lift up your
hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.* Let us give thanks to
the Lord our God. *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

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:

SANCTUS (*found in service music booklet*).

All kneel as 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 give 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:

People:

*We re-mem ber his death. We pro- claim his res-sur rec-tion,
We a- wait his com-ing in glo- ry;*

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 Virgin Mary 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 forever. **AMEN.**

The Easter Vigil

is the pinnacle of the Christian year—the first and greatest celebration of the Resurrection. We begin in darkness, kindling a new fire to symbolize the Light of Christ returning to the world. By the light of the Paschal candle, we listen to the ancient stories of our salvation history, tracing God's saving work from Creation through the deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea. We then celebrate the waters of Baptism, welcoming new members or renewing our own baptismal vows, before the lights are fully restored and we celebrate the first joyous Eucharist of Easter.



TRINITY CHURCH

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Ms. Laura Ausa, Sexton

Mr. Bernard Milano & Mrs. Gail Scanlan, Wardens

Mrs. Lynn Friedman & Mrs. Peg Patterson, Vestry Class of 2027

Mr. Geoff Ramsey & Mrs. Nancy Schneberger, Vestry Class of 2028

Ms. Amanda Roy & Ms. Stephanie Teng, Vestry Class of 2029