



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 22, 2022

10 am

Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!

*If you are new, or would like to update your information, please fill out a pew card.
And please join us for coffee and fellowship immediately following the service.*

ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The congregation is invited to observe silence during the prelude,
out of respect for those who are listening, and as an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and healing.*

Prelude Ciacona in E Minor

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Stand at the ringing of the bell.

Processional Hymn 204 Now the Green Blade Riseth

Noël nouvelet

Priest 
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People 
The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

Priest **A**lmighty 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 S266 A Song to the Lamb

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

Introduction *Antiphon*

Splen - dor and hon - or and
king - ly power are yours by right, — O Lord our God,
1. Splen - dor and hon - or and king - ly power are yours by right, —
— O Lord our God, 2. For you cre - a - ted ev - ery - thing that
is, and by your will they were cre - a - ted and have their be - ing. [Ant.]
3. And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, for with your
blood you have re - deemed for God, 4. From ev - ery fam - ily, lan - guage,
peo - ple, and na - tion, a king - dom of priests to serve our God. [Ant.]
5. And so, to him who sits up - on the throne, and to Christ the Lamb, 6. Be
wor - ship and praise, do - min - ion and splen - dor, for ev - er and for ev - er - more.
[Ant.]

The Collect of the Day *The people stand or kneel.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Holy One, you breathe the word of love and the promise of new creation into the secret places of the soul, opening heart to heart: in the wildness of your Spirit, uncaptured in the wide world, teach us the costly way of fearless love and priceless peace; through Jesus Christ, through whom God dwells with us. **Amen.**

Acts 16:9–15

Paul and his companions are called by a vision to journey to Macedonia and the city of Philippi, where a merchant named Lydia responds to the gospel and is baptized, together with her household. She offers her home to the travelers, and becomes an important supporter of their missionary endeavor.

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67 *Deus misereatur*

St. Martin's Psalter

A prayer for God's graciousness and saving power, and a bidding of praise by all people for God's justice.

Cantor then the people sing the antiphon



- 1 **M**ay God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

The people sing the antiphon

- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The people sing the antiphon

Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5

John the Seer presents a vision of the new Jerusalem, the paradise of God. The city has no need of a temple or of a sun or moon, for it is enlightened by the very glory of God and the lamp of the Lamb, who is Jesus. It will be a place of purity and abundance for the saints. As in the Garden of Eden, here will be found the river and the tree of life.

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *All stand.*

John Karl Hirten

The Alleluias are first sung by a Cantor, then repeated by all.



The proper verse is sung by a Cantor:

Those who love me will keep my word;
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Then all repeat the Alleluias twice more.

John 14:18–29

Jesus' promise to his disciples of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Although Jesus will no longer be present physically, those who continue in his love will know his abiding presence, together with that of the Father. The Holy Spirit will be their counselor and bring Jesus' own words to mind. Jesus shares these things with his followers before they take place, and he gives them his peace.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’ Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Alleluias are sung twice more



All are seated

The Sermon

The Rev. Laurel Coote

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed *All Stand.*

New Zealand Prayer Book

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became fully human.

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,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
and 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 *The people stand or kneel*

Form 3

Leader **F**ather, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Leader For the communities of St. Dunstan's and St. Andre's in Haiti;
Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for peace in the world, for the people of Ukraine and for those who are helping them; We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest;

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The people may add their own petitions.

Priest Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

People **M**ost 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

Priest **T**hrough the cross of Christ,
God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Announcements *All are seated.*

The Offertory

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

Offertory Anthem Thy Perfect Love

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Ben Brown, Soloist

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest, Thy perfect love close in my breast
That I thee love and never rest; And make me love thee of all things best,
And wounde my heart in thy love free, That I may reign in joy evermore with thee.
(15th century)

Offertory Hymn 292 O Jesus, Crowned with All Renown

Kingsfold

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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.

Priest 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 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might (859)

Ronald Arnatt

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. It consists of five staves. The first staff is for the Organ, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/2 time signature. The tempo marking 'Organ' is above the staff. The second staff is for the Choir, also with a treble clef and key signature of one sharp. The tempo marking 'All' is above the staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words underlined. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.' There are some musical notations like a triplet of eighth notes and a fermata over a note.

The people stand or kneel.

Priest 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People **C**hrist has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Priest 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. **AMEN.**

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

People **O**ur Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Fraction Anthem Christ our Passover (*Mass of St. Columbia*) Thaddeus P. Cavioti (b. 1955)

Sung first by the Choir and repeated by All.

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Priest **D**raw near and receive the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ
in remembrance that he died for us.
Let us feed on him in our hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Holy Communion.

The bread is received in the open palm.

If you choose to receive the cup, gently guide the chalice to your lips by touching the base.

At this time, we are not able to allow dipping the wafer into the chalice.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing, or who choose not to receive the cup,
may indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

Communion Solo Arise, My Soul, Arise

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Cam McAra, Soloist

Arise, my soul, arise, Shake off thy guilty fears:

The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:

Before the Throne my Surety stands. My name is written on His hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary,

They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:

“Forgive her, O, forgive,” they cry, “nor let that ransomed sinner die.”

My God is reconciled, His pardoning voice I hear;

He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear;

With confidence I now draw nigh, And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

(Charles Wesley - 1707-1778)

Communion Hymn 513 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Bridegroom

The Post-Communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

People **E**ternal 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.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn 345 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Ellers

Priest 

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



al-le - lu - ia.

People 

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Postlude Canzonetta in G Major

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.

All are welcome to enjoy fellowship with one another outside the church during coffee hour.

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
& in memory of Verna & Leonard Poole by Cindy Poole*



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity, culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.

Family Church: *Getting to know our neighbors!*

May 22nd; 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Join us this month for Family Church as we gather with our friends at our sister Episcopal church, Saint Mary's Pacific Grove, 146 12th Street, Pacific Grove.

All are welcome to meet at Saint Mary's, 4:30 PM on Sunday, May 22 for a neighborhood walk along the shore, a time of prayers and reflection on where we see God in the world, and the chance to get to know one another.

All ages are *welcome and we hope to see you there!*

Help us get to know you by

Filling out a Pew Card

If you are visiting us, are new to Saint Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

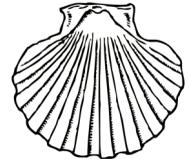
Sign up today to receive

St. Dunstan's weekly eNews

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting stdcv.org/subscribe and entering your email address.

Baptisms offered on Pentecost

Our next date for Baptisms will be on Pentecost, **Sunday, June 5th.**



If you or someone you know may be interested in being baptized, [contact Rev. Laurel](#) for more information and details on preparation.

Deadline for eNews, Bulletin

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to office@stdcv.org by midnight Sunday.

Weekly Bulletins available electronically

Whether you want to save the environment by using less paper, like the idea of reading on your device, want to see what's coming up or what is past, our weekly worship bulletins are available as a PDF online at stdcv.org/bulletins



Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests

For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel revlaurel@stdcv.org or on her cell 310-562-5746. And you can always leave a message on the Pastoral Care line at church [831-624-6646](tel:831-624-6646) ext 110.

Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer requests may be sent to dok@stdcv.org. The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.

Composting and Recycling

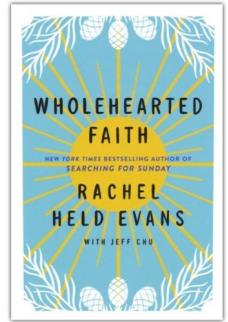
There is a new compost tub in the kitchen that can be used to collect compostable items that can then be taken to our composter outside.

For more information about that “whats?” and “hows?” of recycling and composting, look for the posted fliers in the kitchen. Thank you for helping us comply with these new requirements.



Discussion Group Sundays, 9 am

This week we resume our discussion of Wholehearted Faith by Rachel Held Evans.



We are now meeting in the Guild Room.

We are now meeting in the Guild Room.

Or you can join us via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9109922704>
Meeting ID: 910 992 2704

More info? Speak with Janel Hornbeck.

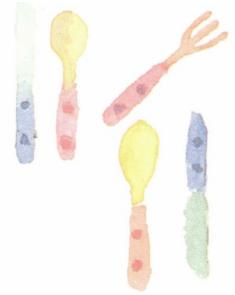
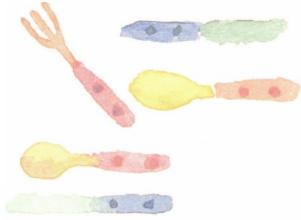
Dedicate Altar Flowers

This is a lovely and meaningful way to give Glory to God in celebration of a birthday, or in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. The cost of the flowers is \$20, but some give more. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan’s with “Altar Flowers” in the memo.

Sign up on the Welcome Table

Helping Ukraine

One way you can help the people of Ukraine is through our own Episcopal Relief & Development office. The ERD does good work all around the world, all the time. And you can rest assured that the money will be used as intended. Give today at episcopalrelief.org



*The Women of St. Dunstan's
are Cordially Invited by Ollie Collins
to a*

Special Ladies Luncheon

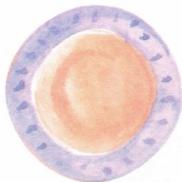
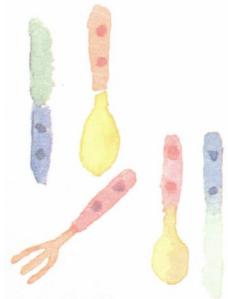
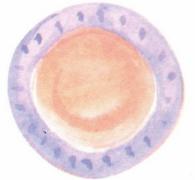
Saturday, June 11, 2022

11:30 am

St. Dunstan's Church, Carmel Valley

Ollie will have gifts for everyone from her years of travel and collecting. Following lunch there will be a tour of the newly remodeled kitchen with tips and instructions on its new features.

RSVP on the Welcome Table



St. Andre’s School in Haiti needs our strong support.

Our 2022 Spring funding campaign for St. Andre’s School in Hinche, Haiti, is underway. Our goal this year is \$65,000, the same as last year. After worship, please stop at our table in the breezeway for further information and to make your gift if you are prepared to donate now.

Amid chaos in Haiti, St. Andre’s School performs miracles! St. Andre’s remains open and our 1,300 students are receiving good educations along with hot nutritious meals every school day. Without our major financial support this will not be possible.

Please be generous again. Our students need your help. Without St. Dunstan’s, they would go uneducated and hungry.

*George Lockwood,
chair of our St. Andre’s Haiti committee*



San Jose Symphonic Choir with St. Dunstan’s present A Requiem for Humankind

Johannes Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* (A German Requiem, being in the peoples’ language rather than Latin) offers comfort to the living. Brahms remarked “I would very gladly omit the ‘German’ as well, and simply put ‘of Humankind,’” suggesting he wished to offer solace to All, regardless of beliefs or backgrounds.

Experience this singular expression of Comfort and Hope for the Living.

Scan QR code for tix:



St. Dunstan’s Staff

The Rev. Laurel Coote, Rector
revlaurel@stdcv.org

Elizabeth Buche, Director Family Ministries
families@stdcv.org

Rodney Gehrke, Director of Music
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Louis Powell, Parish Administrator
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THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY—THURSDAY, 9 AM—12 NOON

Sunday, May 22

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Discussion Group
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:00 am Coffee Hour
4:00 pm Family Church
Stewardship Forum

Monday, May 23

5:30 pm Zoom Compline

Tuesday, May 24

3:00 pm Staff Meeting
7:30 pm AA

Wednesday, May 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursday, May 26

Friday, May 27

4:00 pm I-Help Men

Saturday, May 28

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 29

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Discussion Group
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:00 am Coffee Hour

View the entire parish calendar stdcv.org/calendar

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Alma Swiers	12 Carol Habermann	23 Zealyn Roth
2 Alex Dickerman	13 Theo Lagier	23 Bill Solms
3 Rodney Gehrke	15 Sheila Hiebert	24 Bill Harness
4 Cameron Talley	15 Melissa Pavloff	27 John Dickerman
7 Robin Harness	18 Carlos Pina	30 Marge Taylor
8 Richard Chastain	19 Julie Tomlin	31 Dottie Little
9 Aga Simpson	21 Ray Hiebert	
11 Kathy Lueders	23 Star Reierson	



WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

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