



**St. George's**  
Episcopal  
Church

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# Celtic Evensong with Holy Communion

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Rogation Day  
May 5, 2024**

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You are welcome at  
St. George's Church:  
Regardless of race,  
nationality,  
sexual orientation,  
gender expression,  
or tradition.

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# Welcome to St. George's!

View Our Complete Weekly  
Worship Schedule on our Website:  
[StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/worship](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/worship)

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Whether you are worshipping online or in person, we are glad you are here. We hope you will find comfort in the beauty of the worship and encouragement in your personal faith journey.

## New to St. George's?

Thank you for joining us today!

You can use this bulletin to follow along with the worship service. We use liturgies based in the red *Book of Common Prayer*. Hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982* and green *Wonder, Love, and Praise*. All are located in your pew. Watch fellow worshippers for when to stand or sit, and please only do what is comfortable for you.

We'd love to get to know you and help get you connected with our parish ministries, formation, and fellowship groups.



Visit [StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/connect](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/connect) or scan the QR code and we'll be in touch. You can also fill out the Newcomer Card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate.

Our rector (lead priest), Rev. Joe Hensley, would welcome the chance to speak with you. Please introduce yourself after the worship service. You can also contact him at: [joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net)

## Thank You for Your Generous Gifts!

Your financial gifts fund our ministries so we may show the Love of God to all. This month your gifts have helped:

- the St. George's Youth Group craft and send care packages to St. Georgians who are away at college.
- sustain our partners in ministry at Notre Dame Parish and School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with over \$5000 collected through our Easter outreach offering.

You can make a financial gift:

- **In-person:** place gift in collection plate in the aisle.
- **Online - one-time or recurring:** [StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving). Or scan the QR code.
- **Text:** Send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133)

You can also mail a check to the church office:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404 Thank you!

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## Formation for All Ages:

View staff directory on our website:  
[StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/staff](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/staff)  
Or call the church office: 540.373.4133

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One way we explore our spirituality is through learning - be it presentations, reading, or even talking with one another during coffee hour.

### Nursery

Nursery care is available for little ones ages 0 - 4 years old during the 9 am and 11:15 am worship services and the 10 am formation hour. Please see an usher for directions to the nursery.

### Children

*Montessori-based faith exploration*

- Age 3 - 2nd Grade: Godly Play, a Montessori-based program of stories, wondering, and expressive art or play. In the Godly Play room of the Preschool floor.
- Grades 3 - 5: SPLASH (Spirit, Play, Love All Spoken Here) using a curriculum designed by the Episcopal Church. In the Youth area of the 3rd floor.

### Youth

*An inclusive, welcoming community*

- Youth Café is back! Youth will gather in the small side of Sydnor and head to a local coffee shop for fellowship.

*Youth Group meets for fellowship  
5 - 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of  
the month, on the Youth Floor*

### Adults

Forum Presentation (Sydnor Hall):

This Sunday is the next session in our series, *Life Together*; this week we explore a [modern] Christian understanding of sex. We've been told many times what not to do (and not always in responsible ways), so what is good sex, and what makes it different?

### Questions about formation offerings?

General inquiries:

Church Office - 540.373.4133  
[office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net)

Children: age 3 - 5th grade

Rev. Joe Hensley

[joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net)

Youth: 6th - 12th grade

Adults

Rev. Will Dickinson

[will.dickinson@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:will.dickinson@stgeorgesepiscopal.net)

Young Adults: age 18 - 45

Rev. Ethan Lowery

[missioner@thehousefxbg.org](mailto:missioner@thehousefxbg.org)

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# The Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Rogation Day

### May 5, 2024

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from the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), *Enriching Our Worship*, and forms of prayer from around the world.

*We invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer. We are glad you are here!*

*We welcome you to this service, whether you have been here often or if this is your first time. Please use this bulletin as your guide to participate. Please note the announcements about ways to connect and upcoming events. May this time of worship and prayer be a blessing to you.*

#### **Prelude**

*One minute of silence follows the prelude. Please rise or rise in spirit at the ringing of the bell.*

#### **Opening Reading: "Primary Wonder"**

Denise Levertov

Days pass when I forget the mystery.  
Problems insoluble and problems offering  
their own ignored solutions  
jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber  
along with a host of diversions, my courtiers, wearing  
their colored clothes; caps and bells.  
And then  
once more the quiet mystery  
is present to me, the throng's clamor  
recedes: the mystery  
that there is anything, anything at all,  
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything,  
rather than void: and that, O Lord,  
Creator, Hallowed one, You still,  
hour by hour sustain it.

#### **Hymn 204: "Now the green blade riseth"**

*Noël Nouvelet*

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## Gather in God's Name

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### A Prayer for the Evening

Officiant: We light a candle in the name of the Maker,

**People: who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for us.**

Officiant: We light a candle in the name of the Son,

**People: who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us.**

Officiant: We light a candle in the name of the Spirit,

**People: who encompasses the world.**

Officiant: Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the Breaking of Bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

### Collect for Rogation Sunday

**BCP 258**

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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## Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

### The Reading from the Gospel

**John 15:9 - 17**

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Silence is observed after the reading*

### Meditation

the Rev. T. Ethan Lowery

*Two minutes of silence will follow.*

### Music for Meditation

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## Pray for the World and the Church

*Please stand as able*

Officiant: Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us.

Leader 1: Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O God. Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed.

Officiant: We ask you in faith:

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Leader 2: Upon human labour send a blessing, O God. Prosper the work of our hands; may all find dignity and just reward in their work; free the exploited and oppressed.

Officiant: We ask you in faith:

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Leader 1: Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O God. Guide into a sustainable future, and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.

Officiant: We ask you in faith:

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Leader 2: Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O God. Teach us to cherish the water of the earth, and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.

Officiant: We ask you in faith:

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Leader 1: Upon our people gathered send a blessing, O God. Hear the prayers we bring today, offered silently or aloud:

*The people offer their prayers and thanksgivings.*

Officiant: We ask you in faith:

**People: Hear us, O God.**

Leader 2: Upon our efforts to resist temptation send a blessing, O God. Remove from us the will to control the earth and to waste it away. Give us the will to sacrifice for the generations to come.

Officiant: We ask you in faith:

**People: Hear us, O God.**

*The celebrant invites those with gardening supplies and tools to raise them up.*

Celebrant: We praise you, O God, for the richness of your bounty, for the beauty of your earth. Bless these tools and the hands that wield them, that we might learn from one another and from your Creation how you loved us first and how to love one another; let a new spring of faith well up and overflow; bless the fruits of the harvest, that all might be drawn into your life; in the Name of the most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

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*If you like, please come forward during the music and light a candle as an embodied symbol of your prayer. Please help us to keep a bit of distance between one another.*

### **Music for Meditation**

"Come and fill"

Taizé

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone O Lord are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!**

*please stand and say in unison*

**Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven, the hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Grace**

Officiant: Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection and the world was changed forever: Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. **Amen.**

### **Exchange the Peace**

Officiant: Christ, the Good Shepherd, binds us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*All are now invited to exchange a sign of peace.*

**Birthday Blessing** *said in unison*

**BCP 830**

**Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## Prepare the Table

As we prepare to make Eucharist, the holy feast of thanksgiving and grace, we present ourselves and our gifts to God and remember that Jesus said, "Abide in my love...I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

*It is a joy to gather together this evening, and we especially welcome anyone who is visiting or here for the first time. Please see more information in the bulletin notes and feel free to introduce yourself after the service. There are also printed instructions about receiving communion or a blessing.*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. As the table is prepared, we invite you to consider a gift in support of our ministry within and beyond our congregation. Make your offering online (<http://bit.ly/stggive>), in the alms basin provided in the aisle, or by mail to the church. Please note the announcements at the rear of this bulletin. For the latest updates and messages of encouragement, check our website ([StGeorgesEpiscopal.net](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net)) and subscribe to our email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/stgenews>).*

## Music for Meditation

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## Make Eucharist

*Please stand.*

Celebrant: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds:*

O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives.

You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom.

You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death. With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

**Sanctus WLP 850**

Jonathan Dimmock

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest, the highest.**

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*The Celebrant proceeds:*

We praise you that in Jesus Christ you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness.

Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

**“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

**“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”**

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come now, Spirit of God, come upon us and upon this bread and wine. Make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: As Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Celebrant:*

**Our 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.**

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## Break the Bread and Share the Gifts of God

"O Risen Lord"

Ralph R. Stewart

**O risen Lord, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
O risen Lord, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
O risen Lord, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

Celebrant: This is the table, not simply of the Church, but of our God. It is made ready for those who love God and those who want to love more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is God who invites you. It is God's will that those who want God should meet Love here.

*All are welcome to participate in Communion through receiving the Sacrament in the form of Bread and Wine or receiving a blessing. You may come forward as invited by an usher. For those receiving the Sacrament, hold out your hands over each other, palms up. If you require a gluten-free wafer, hold your hands palms down. You may sip the wine from the chalice or simply touch the base. For those receiving a blessing instead, please cross your arms over your chest. After, please return to your pew by the side aisle.*

### Music during Communion

#### After Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*Please stand.*

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us, and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.**

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## Blessing for Rogation Sunday

from the Church of England

God the Creator, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide us with all we need for life in its fullness. **Amen.**

God the Savior, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine, feed us with his life and transform us in his love. **Amen.**

God the Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the most glorious, holy, and undivided Trinity, be upon you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Go into the World

Hymn 455: "O Love of God, how strong and true"

*Dunedin*

### The Dismissal

Officiant: Go into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All services today (weather permitting) will participate in a Sanctuary Evacuation Drill, in lieu of the postlude music at the conclusion of the services. Parishioners are asked to exit through the front of the church via the door that corresponds with their pew aisle. After exiting the church, please proceed across George Street to the Renwick Courtyard, as you are able, where ushers will dismiss you.*

### Acknowledgments

The Opening Reading by Denise Levertov. The Opening Sentences from *Common Worship* of the Church of England. The Prayer for the Evening is from Iona. Prayer inspired by The Lord's Prayer from A New Zealand Prayer Book, Harper Collins, 1977.

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## Announcements

For the latest news and events,  
sign up for our weekly e-newsletter,  
The St. Georgian:  
[StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews)

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### Exit Drill Today

Our vestry is working to enhance our safety and emergency readiness. Today after each service we will practice exiting the nave in a calm and efficient manner. Verbal instructions will be provided. After the drill, parishioners are welcome to return to the church.

### Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, May 7, as our staff conduct some long-term organizing, cleaning, and planning. If you have a pastoral emergency (e.g., death, loss of job) and need to speak with clergy urgently, please call or text our pastoral emergency phone at: 540.361.8573 to reach clergy on call.

### Ascension Day Service - May 9 at 7 pm

One of the major feasts of the Christian year, Ascension Day occurs 40 days after Easter and commemorates Jesus' rising to heaven (as depicted in our Ascension stained glass window). We will hold a Eucharist service with choir at 7 pm in the nave with guest preacher, the Rev. Denise Bennett, rector of St. Asaph's Episcopal Church in Bowling Green.

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### Today's Altar Arrangement:

is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my mother, Wilma Schaible by Karen Pierce.

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### Notre Dame School in Haiti Benefit Concert – Today at 3 pm

As we continue to offer support to our siblings in Christ at Notre Dame Parish and School in Port Au Prince, Haiti, we are excited to welcome percussionist Alberto "Limon" Perez and the Latin Feeling Band to St. George's today at 3 pm for a concert, with donations to benefit the school. During this time of chaos and gang violence in Haiti, the school remains open as a beacon of hope by the grace of God and through our ongoing support. As always, if you would like to contribute to our Haiti funds, visit our giving portal and select "Haiti" in the giving menu.

### Writing our Way to Wholeness Group

The group "Writing our Way to Wholeness" is beginning another 8-week session from May 7 - June 25 on Tuesday mornings from 10 am - 11:15 am on Zoom. Guided by the book *Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Our Lives* by Jane Marie Thibault and Richard Morgan, we will encounter both the joys and the challenges of these years as we discover how our God walks the path with us ever more closely as we age. This study was developed by Marjorie George of the Diocese of West Texas and offers questions (as well as our own) to reflect on, write on and discuss together. For more information and to join this group please contact Kate Hardy (703 229 3864). Participants will need to purchase the book.

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# St. George's Prayer List

For the most up-to-date list of prayers and thanksgivings, sign up to receive our email prayer list: [StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/signup](https://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/signup)

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## Regarding the Prayer List:

We strive to extend the power of the congregation's prayer to those who feel they would benefit from its embrace. Please submit prayer requests in writing to [office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net). Names remain on the list for 1 month.

## Our leadership:

For our bishops, Justin, Michael, Mark, Gayle, and Bud; for Joe, Will, and Ethan, our clergy; for those who are priests and pastors in our community; for our staff—Laurel, John, Jake, Kevin, Danielle, Barbara, Michael, Achim, Lisa, Riley, Amy, and Juliann; and for our Vestry.

## Those needing God's grace:

Melanie Goodpasture, Ashley Johnson, Pamela Haley, Viola Cleo Bradshaw, Hannah Cannon, Valerie

## Those in convalescence:

Paul Metzger, Ralph Powell, Deborah York, Marcia Russell, Jan Waltonen, Joyce Snead (mother of Joyce Steele), Karen Primmer, Eleanore Spears, Jan Fensterer, Liz Myers, Julius, Kari N.

## Those expecting children:

Michael and Maria Strickland, daughter of Anna and Paul Colopy; Andrea and Cody Bryant

## Those recently born:

Kieran Joseph Dzurenda, son of Joseph and Jenna Dzurenda

## Those serving our country overseas:

Jeff Bryant, Travis Weber

## Those attending seminary:

Kris Rose, Anne-Tillery Melson, John Hager

## Those homebound:

Betty Stephens, Cornelia Bryant

## Those who have died:

*Valerie Kelly, sister of Pete Kelly*

## Those with ongoing concerns:

Arya Holmes, Dick Roth, Molly Myers, Randy Donaldson, Martha and Sarah Turner, Claire Simpson, Paula Mullins, Mina Sabik, Beryl Harrison, Bill Marshall, Christina Shiel, Annette, Russ Carter, Diane Powell, Ron Tebbutt, Reggie Harrison, Betsy, Isobel Hornung, Janis Hales, Margot VanHorn

## In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Paul's, Haymarket

## In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

**Our Partners:** St. George's Episcopal Pre-school; Notre Dame Parish and School (Port-au-Prince, Haiti), Père Geffrard Ricot; The House college chaplaincy and young adult ministry; SAWs Virginia; Rev. Ōshin Jennings, No Barriers Zen Temple; Micah Ecumenical Ministries; Our Little Roses - Honduras

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# Serving This Sunday

Thank you to our worship leaders serving today. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office: [office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

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**Celebrant:**

The Rev. T. Ethan Lowery

**Officiant:**

Jack Farrington

**Chalice Bearers:**

Jack Farrington  
Marilyn Farrington

**Candle Set up:**

Sharon Null

**Reader:**

Marilyn Farrington

**Greeter:**

Sharon Null

**Usher:**

Sharon Null

**Prayers:**

Sherry Newman  
Chris Forzano

**Musicians:**

Amanda Fisher, violin  
Mike Grinnan, guitar  
John Vreeland, piano  
Dave Davies, voice

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**Contact Our Vestry:**

The Vestry is our elected, lay leadership council led by our Senior Warden, Michele Prout Alston, and Junior Warden, John Graham.

The Vestry welcomes your questions, concerns, and feedback. Email them at: [vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net](mailto:vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net)

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**St. George's Episcopal Church**

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Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

540.373.4133 (office)

Pastoral Emergencies:

540.361.8573 (call or text)

[StGeorgesEpiscopal.net](http://StGeorgesEpiscopal.net)

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