

# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 20, 2020



# Christmas

from

## St. Mary of the Hills

### Christmas Eve

- 5:00PM Holy Eucharist (with Act of Spiritual Communion)  
on Zoom and YouTube
- 7:30PM 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' read by  
Fr. Andrew and Family  
on Zoom and YouTube
- 10:00PM An Order of Worship for Evening  
on Zoom and YouTube

### Christmas Day

- 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist on the Front Lawn of the Church  
In-Person (Registration Required, Weather Permitting)

# AN ADVENT PROCESSION OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join the service via Zoom here –  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81701493071>

Join the service via YouTube here –  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIEr6UDGf9EyTvPRGs8\\_1A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIEr6UDGf9EyTvPRGs8_1A)

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*A prayerful silence precedes the service.  
The tower bells ring the hour.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN 56, (vs. 1-5)

O come, O come, Emmanuel

*Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## THE BIDDING

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this community.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**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 forever. Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
 cursed are you among all animals  
 and among all wild creatures;  
 upon your belly you shall go,  
 and dust you shall eat  
 all the days of your life.  
 I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
 and between your offspring and hers;  
 he will strike your head,  
 and you will strike his heel."

## CAROL

Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Adam lay ybounden,  
 Bounden in a bond;  
 Four thousand winter  
 Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,  
 An apple that he took,  
 As clerkës finden  
 Written in their book.

Ne had one apple taken been,  
 The apple taken been,  
 Then had never Our Lady  
 A-been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time  
 That apple taken was.  
 Therefore we moun singen  
*Deo gratias!*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

## CAROL

Remember, O thou man

Thomas Ravenscroft (1582-1633)

Remember, O thou Man,  
 O thou Man, O thou Man,  
 Remember, O thou Man,  
     Thy time is spent.  
 Remember, O thou Man,  
 How thou camest to me then,  
 And I did what I can.  
     Therefore repent.

Remember Adam's fall,  
 O thou Man, O thou Man,  
 Remember Adam's fall  
     From Heaven to Hell.  
 Remember Adam's fall,  
 How we were condemned all  
 To Hell perpetual,  
     There for to dwell.

Remember God's goodness,  
 O thou Man, O thou Man,  
 Remember God's goodness  
     And promise made.  
 Remember God's goodness,  
 How his only Son he sent  
 Our sins for to redress.  
     Be not afraid.

## THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 7: 10-15

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

## CAROL

I beheld her, beautiful as a dove

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

I beheld her, beautiful as a dove, rising above the waterbrooks;  
and her raiment was filled with perfume beyond all price.  
Even as the springtime was she girded with rosebuds and lilies of the valley.  
Who is this that cometh up from the desert like a wreath of sweet smoke  
arising from frankincense and myrrh?  
Even as the springtime was she girded with rosebuds and lilies of the valley.

## THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 65: 17-25

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD--  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent-- its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

## CAROL

Rejoice in the Lord always

Anonymous (16<sup>th</sup> Century)

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice.  
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is even at hand.  
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,  
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding  
keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesu.  
Amen.

## THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



HYMN 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

*Gabriel's Message*

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

*A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.*

THE VESPER RESPONSORY *(sung by the cantors)*

- V. Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;  
R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
V. Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

*Responsory from the ancient Sarum Matins for Christmas Eve*

*Officiant* We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord.

*People* **In the midst of your temple.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Free intercessions may be offered during the period of silence, the people naming their own petitions and thanksgivings.  
These may be shared with one another in the comment box on Zoom or YouTube.*

*The Officiant then offers the Collects.*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

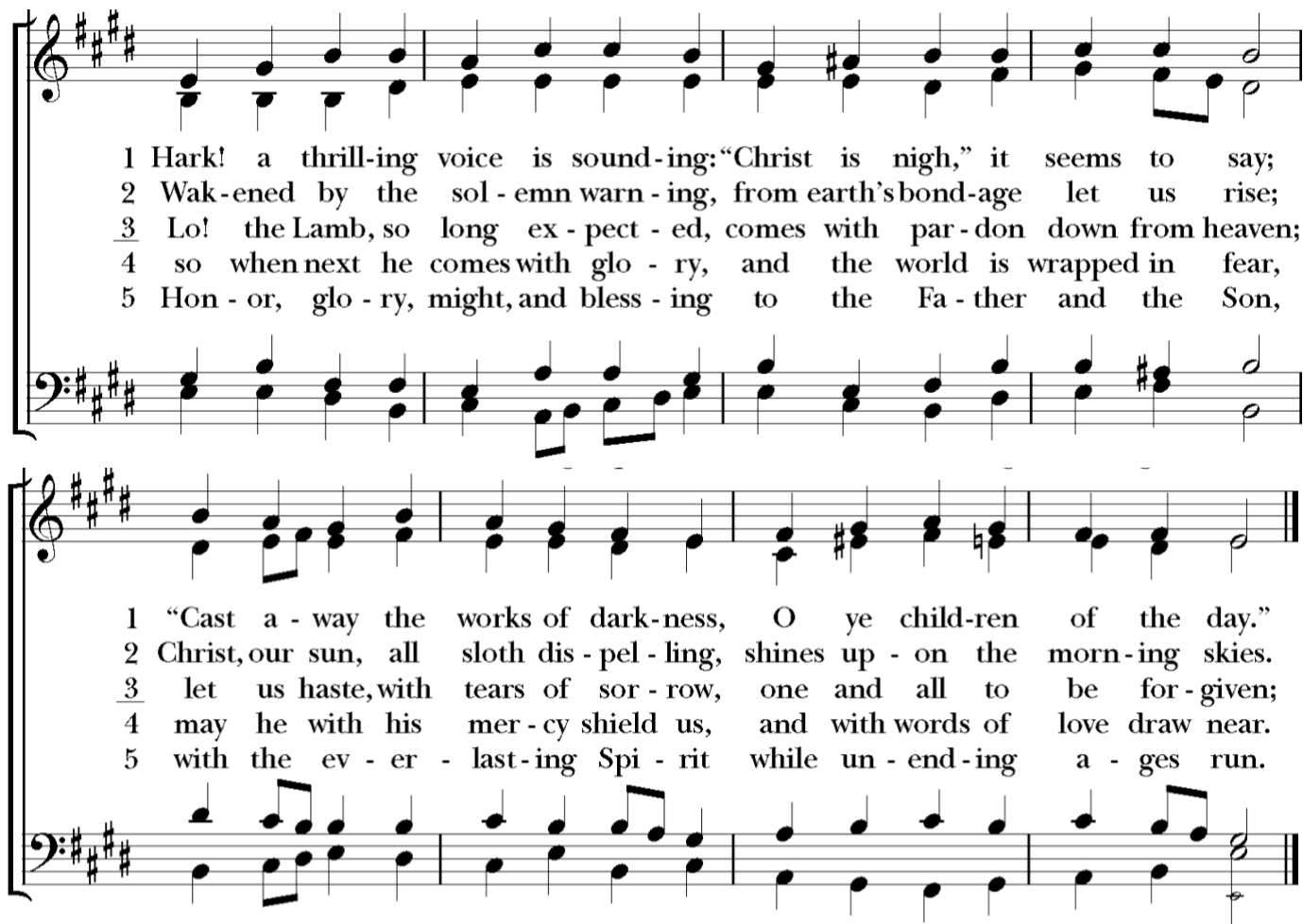
## THE BLESSING

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## HYMN 59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

*Merton*



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;  
4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)  
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## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

### *Credits and References*

\*Liturgical references are from the *Book of Common Prayer* (1979), *The Hymnal* 1982, and the *Book of Occasional Services* (2018)

\*\*Biblical references are from the *Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (1989)

## **COFFEE MINUTE**

Are you missing the opportunity to connect with St. Mary's friends during Coffee Minute? We are too! After worship, join us for an online Coffee Minute on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753510585>

*Password: coffee*

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!**

Your financial contributions enable this mission and ministry of this parish to continue.

Gifts may be received online at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/donate>  
or via mail (P.O. Box 14, Blowing Rock, NC 28607).

## Please Pray for the Following in Your Daily Prayers

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew our rector, Sam and Gary our assisting clergy, for our Vestry and staff, for all bishops and ministers, and for all God's people throughout the world.

For Donald, our President, Joseph, our President-Elect, Roy, our Governor, those who hold elected office, and all those in positions of public trust.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For all those affected by natural disaster, most especially those affected by hurricanes, fires, and floods.

**For healing:** Cole Silverman, Rob, Alice Holt, Ham, Bria McKnight, Richard Miller, Erby Miller, Anna, Chantz, Ann Greene, Tom Veale, Kathy, Bill T., Tina, Blaine Smith, Bob Amos, Frank Thomas, Mills Poole, Pam Ayoub, Eartha McKnight, Pat R., Gerry H., George Eden, Jo Barbre, Joe Dyer, McDonough family, Peter, Terry, Judy, Barbara Horton, Sherri

*\*\*\*(Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks, unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.)\*\*\**

**For those who have died:** Jim Ayoub, Georgia Day, Tom Dillard, Tae McAlpin, Shana, Sonny Howard, Ginny Peterson, Barbara Collier, Wendy, Kilton B., Nick, Buck Bellmore, Mabel Jones

**For safe pregnancy and delivery for:** Anna, Kristen, Amanda, Claire, Kimmi, Falconer

### **For those celebrating birthdays this week:**

12/21 Joellyn Gibbons, Kevin Hayes

12/22 Robert Kling

12/23 Adeline Sauer, Maureen Justice

12/25 Megan Redford, Randy Ouzts

12/26 Marjory Holder, Duncan McGill, Teddy Rickenbaker

### **For those celebrating anniversaries this week:**

12/21 Van and Margaret Joffrion

12/22 Rick and Beth Lawler

12/23 Pinkney and Jo Rankin

### **Parish Prayer Cycle:**

12/20 Matthew and Sara Hitechew

12/21 Marjory Holder and Larry Turnbow

12/22 Alice Holt

12/23 Richard and Betty Howe

12/24 Sterling Hutcheson

12/25 Van and Margaret Joffrion

12/26 Bob and Anne Jones

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day at St. Mary of the Hills** – A livestreamed celebration of Holy Eucharist, with the act of Spiritual Communion, will be offered via Zoom and YouTube on Christmas Eve at 5:00PM. This service will then be archived on YouTube for later viewing.

On Christmas Day, weather permitting, a celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be offered at 11:00AM on the front lawn of the Church, for up to 50 people. Registration, masks, and social distancing will be required. Registration for this service will open on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.



**A Service of Hope and Remembrance** – On the longest night of the year, St. Mary of the Hills will join in worship with our neighbors at Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church for a Service of Hope and Remembrance. As a part of this liturgy, we will name the griefs that are present in our lives in this season, and light candles that illumine hope in our midst. The service begins at 6:00PM via Zoom; a bulletin, including log-in information, will be available on our parish website.

**Rector's Forum** – During the season of Advent, Fr. Andrew will offer reflections and invite conversation using the appointed Sunday Gospel texts and familiar hymns of the season. This Sunday the Gospel text is Luke 1:26-28 and the hymn we'll consider is, "O come, O come, Emanuel". We meet via Zoom, 9:00-9:30AM. Use the link – [HERE](#) – to connect (password: forum) All are welcome!

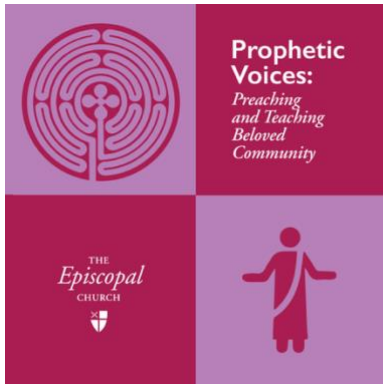
*The Rector's Forum will take a break after Christmas and return on Sunday, January 10.*

**Christmas Flower & Greenery Offering** – In a few short days, our worship space will be decorated with greenery and flowers to usher in the Christmas season. Though we will not be able to gather in large groups, as is our custom, the Church will continue to proclaim the beauty of Christ among us. For many, it is a tradition to make a gift toward flowers and greenery in honor or memory of a loved one, to be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin. If you'd like to do so, contact Parish Administrator, Greta Wilson ([office@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:office@stmaryofthehills.org) or 828.295.7323) by December 15th.

**Advent Heifer Fair (Online)** - This year, in lieu of our annual in-person Advent Heifer Fair, we invite you to remember Heifer International as a part of your holiday shopping. A contribution to the work of Heifer International makes a great gift for friends and family. Learn more about the work of Heifer International by clicking the image of their logo above to visit their website. Wondering how much to give or how your dollars are used?

Check out Heifer's Shopping List - [HERE](#). To contribute, you may use our online giving portal - [HERE](#) - select 'Other' in the drop-down menu and type 'Heifer' in the text box. Alternatively, you may place a check in the mail, addressed to St. Mary of the Hills, with 'Heifer' in the memo line.





**Advent Prophetic Voices** – The final Zoom discussion group using the Episcopal Church podcast series, *Prophetic Voices: Preaching & Teaching Beloved Community* will meet tomorrow, Monday, December 21, from 3:30 until 4:45PM. The prophetic voices on the podcast come from all over our church, voices from many perspectives that share our Christian values and our Anglican/Episcopal heritage. Facilitated by a St. Mary's parishioner, the session will engage the scripture readings of Advent with our time of needing to heal our deep divisions. Please let Fr. Sam ([sam@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:sam@stmaryofthehills.org)) know of your interest and if you wish to participate.

**St. Mary of the Hills on YouTube** – Did you know that all services are available for streaming and are also archived on YouTube? Visit our channel – [HERE](#) - and don't forget to subscribe.

# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege	Rector
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman	Priest Associate
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster	Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Bumgardner	Organist/Choirmaster
Greta Wilson	Parish Administrator
Joe Raulerson	Financial Secretary
Bill Stroh	Sexton
Caleb Brigman, Emme Hooks, Kathryn Santiago, Jacob Smith	Choral Scholars
Megan Redford, Alex Scheurer, Chloe Shaut	Nursery Assistants

## THE VESTRY

### 2020

Crawford Cleveland  
Bill Furr  
Jane Milner  
Chip Myers, Sr. Warden

### 2021

Sterling Hutcheson  
Gigi Poole  
E.B. Springs  
Jim West

### 2022

Doug Galke  
Lisa Kaufmann  
Roy McCraw  
Tim Silver, Jr. Warden

Amanda White, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk

+++

**St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church**

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[www.stmaryofthehills.org](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org)

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