# Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
# Bishop Parochial Visitation

## with Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

*Sunday, November 8, 2026*



*The Wise and Foolish Virgins, William Blake, c.1825, Yale Center for British Art*

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Simsbury, CT
*Celebrate. Inspire. Serve.*

## *Welcome to St. Alban's!*

Your prayers and presence today are a gift to this community. We are grateful that you are here. We pray that you feel the love of Christ, the holy stirring of the Spirit, and God's presence here this morning.

### *Worship*

Everything you need to worship can be found in this bulletin and in your own heart. We may follow traditional times when we sit or stand or kneel, and it's all optional. Please feel free to speak, sing and move in ways that draw you into joyful life with each other and God. If you need help finding a restroom, changing table, or water fountain, please ask an Usher.

### *Children*

Children of all ages are welcome. Wiggles, noises, wandering, cries and conversation are the stuff of the Holy Spirit and enhance the joy of our time together. We also have a special space where our children like to hang out. We call it the Prayground and it's in the rear balcony. Please feel free to join them there, or bring things to your seats.

### *Communion*

Sharing in the bread and wine is the heart of our Sunday service. Please join in the feast (or just come forward for a blessing)! Ask if you would like gluten-free bread. If you want healing prayer, please seen Pastor Stephen after the service.

### *Learning More*

Ask one of us! And fill out a "Welcome" card, so we can stay in touch. They're on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary, or ask an usher. You can also visit our website or find us on Facebook. Please always feel free to contact Pastor Stephen if you have any questions or needs. See back page for all our contact info.

### *Donating*

During our service today, Ushers will pass offering plates for your monetary gifts. Today's loose plate or undesignated offering will be given to Bishop Jeff's Discretionary Fund for support of emergencies and non-budgeted ministries that arise in the course of the year. Please be generous and support this important ministry.

Today, we welcome The Right Reverend Jeffrey W. Mello, our Bishop Diocesan, who will be our principal celebrant.

And we celebrate those being Received and those Reaffirming their Baptismal Vows:
For Reception: Amy Przytulski (presenters Rick and Marianne Roth)
For Reaffirmation: Daniel Roth (presenters Jean and Stan Pryztulski)

**Welcome** *Pastor Stephen*

**Prelude** *Sonata in A,* K.208 of Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn** *Amazing grace!* *H82 671*




*John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus*

**Opening Prayer**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

There is one Body and one Spirit;
**There is one hope in God's call to us;**
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
**One God and Father of all.**

**The Gloria** *S280*



The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**
Let us pray.

**The Collect of the Day**

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

**A Reading from the book of Wisdom** *(6:12-16)*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 70**

*Deus, in adjutorium*

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O LORD, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the LORD!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

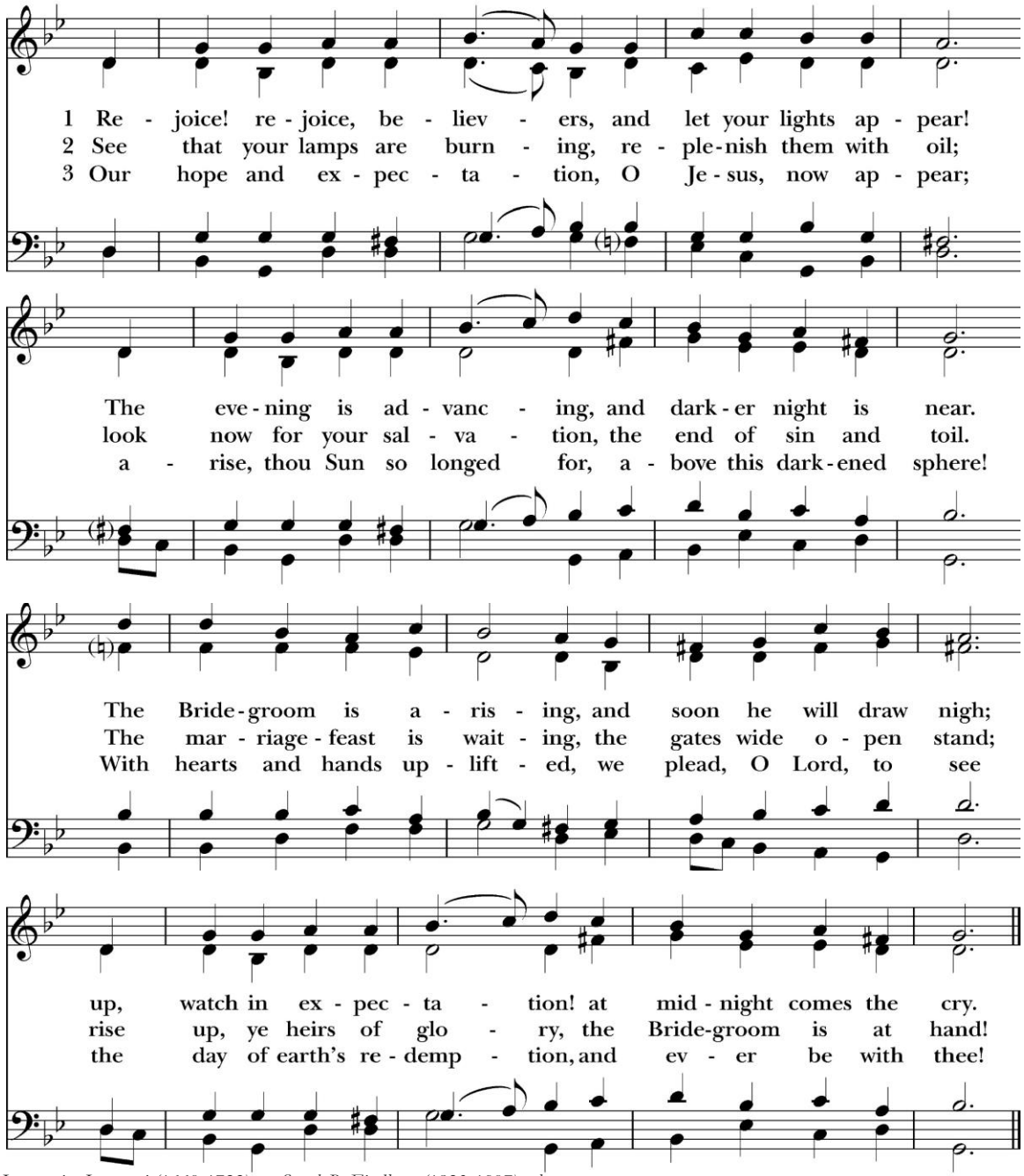
6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O LORD, do not tarry.

**A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians** *(4:13-18)*

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn** *Rejoice! Rejoice believers* *H82 68*




*Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.*

**The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew** *(25:1-13)*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of our Savior.
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon** *The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan*

## RECEPTION AND REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

### Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

*The Bishop says*
The Candidates will now be presented.

*Presenter(s) for those to be received say*
I present Amy to be received into this Communion.

*Presenter(s) for those who are reaffirming their baptismal vows say*
I present Daniel, who desires to reaffirm his baptismal vows.

*The Bishop asks the candidates*
Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidates*
I do.

*Bishop*
Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidates*
I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*
Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

*The Bishop then says these or similar words*
Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

**The Baptismal Covenant**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

*People* **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.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **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.**

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

*People* **I will, with God's help**.

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

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

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

*People* I **will, with God's help.**

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

*People* I **will, with God's help.**

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

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

**Prayers for the Candidates**

*Please stand as able*
*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for Amy and Daniel, who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Intercessor leads the following petitions*

*Leader* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*A period of silence follows.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**For Reception**

Amy, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

**For Reaffirmation**

Daniel, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

*Bishop* The peace of Christ be always with you.
*People* **And also with you.**



**Announcements**

*The loose plate or undesignated offering will be given to Bishop Jeff's Discretionary Fund for support of emergencies and non-budgeted ministries that arise in the course of the year. Please be generous and support this important ministry.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Hymn** *Take my life and let it be* *H82 707*




*Francis Ridley Havargal (1836-1879), alt.*

*The gifts are lifted up at the table. Then is said:*

All things come from you, Creator God.

**Out of the abundant gifts you have given us, we pledge to you our time, our energy, and the fruits of our labor. May these gifts strengthen the Body of Christ that is St. Alban's parish, so that we may deepen our love for you and each other, and reach out**

**to joyfully serve our neighbors who hunger for your saving Hope. May we ever Celebrate, Inspire and Serve in the saving name of Jesus your Son our Lord. Amen.**

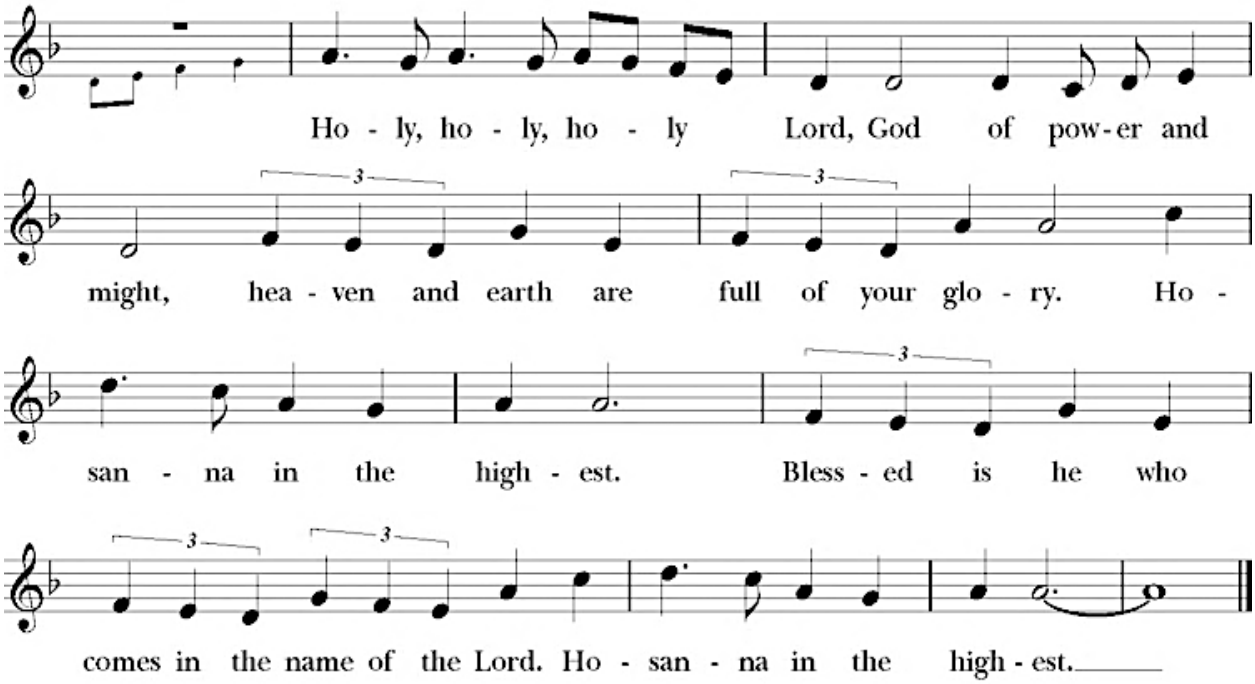
## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
**And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**Sanctus** *S129*




Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

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

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Alban and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy Name,**
**thy kingdom come,**
**thy will be done,**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread.**
**And forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,**
**and the power,**
**and the glory,**
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*
*A period of silence is kept.*
*Then may be said:*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## The Communion

*You are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion or for a blessing if you are not yet baptized. Stand or kneel in a semi-circle around the holy table in whatever way is comfortable for you. The sacrament is offered as bread (ask for gluten free) and/or wine. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let us know and we will be honored to do so. To receive a blessing instead, let us know by crossing your arms over your chest. No one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away.*

## Communion Hymn

*Just as I am* — *H82 693*




*Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)*

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all you people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn** *Will you come and follow me (The Summons)*




Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 777 6; Scottish traditional; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949

**The Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** *Sonata in E, III. Finale*, Hob. XVI:13 of Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

***Thank You to Our Ministers Today***

Principal Celebrant: The Right Reverend Jeffrey W. Mello
Assisting Priest: The Reverend Stephen Nagy
Musician: Andrew King
Bishop's Chaplain: Wesley Reidel
Acolyte: Kathleen Canzano
Readers: Eleanor Terrell, Judy Duncan
Intercessor: Ann Hall
Ushers: Adam & Hollyn Reidel
Tech: Mikaila Reidel
Altar Guild chair: Sharon Braden



ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH *is a community of faith whose mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. Toward this end, we* CELEBRATE, INSPIRE *and* SERVE. *By God's grace, we are here to share our joy, to lead by example, and to care for others.*


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Bryan Adams, Junior Warden
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Eleanor Terrell, Kathleen Canzano


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PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

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The Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan