Holy Eucharist July Fourth Commemoration The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 4, 2021-10:00 a.m.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

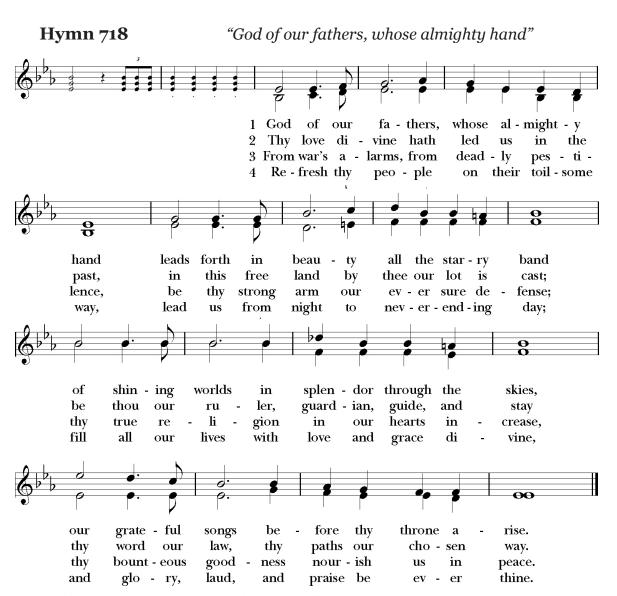
Los Gatos, California

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Symphony No 9, 2nd movement ("From the New World") Antonín Dvořák

Please stand at the sound of the bell.



Celebrant Blessed be God, who creates, redeems,

and sanctifies.

People And blessed be the Realm of God,

now and forever. Amen.

The Bidding Prayer

It is on July 2, 1776, that delegates at the second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia officially separated the 13 American colonies from Britain by approving a motion for independence. Hear these words from The Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

As Christians who are Americans, we gather this day to thank God for the gifts of our freedom and liberty, to honor those whose vision, wisdom and sacrifice secured these "unalienable Rights" for us and every generation, to confess that while we believe that all are created equal, we have not allowed others to enjoy that freedom or those rights. We ask God's forgiveness and call upon God's unconditional love and boundless mercy to grant that we may be given strength and courage to live more fully into our faith and beliefs. Let us pray:

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of states, Mayors of cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in states, cities, and towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Judges and Officers of our courts, give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

Celebrant Let us pray together:

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 719

"Oh beautiful for spacious skies"

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

The Celebrant says:

Let us remember our history, that our past may inform our future.

The people sit.

The Readings

A Reading from A Pilgrim's Diary Read by Cheryl Lawrence

"I am interested to reflect, my dear friend, on a most recent moment in the life of this brave colony. The winter past had been a bitter one, beyond memory of any of our group. The dead of many of this band had disheartened our spirits and weakened our wills; our bodies, too, suffering from myriad deficiencies. However, moved by a spirit beyond their understanding or ours, the natives taught us new ways of growing and preserving food, and after a more pleasant summer we found ourselves facing approaching winter on the heels of a good crop. Our harvest gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labours. Wishing to give thanks to Almighty God for these benefits our leaders proclaimed a day of thanksgiving, inviting our native friends to feast with us in gratitude to God for their aid and comfort.

"On the day set, all gathered, bringing produce and game in such abundance as to match any board at home. And after solemn thanksgiving, a glad festival was held, and afterwards games to delight the soul, and much laughter. Larders are full, bodies are well, and houses more secure from impending cold. In the face of coming winter we no longer fear, and we look to the future of our godly enterprise with hope, that God's help surrounding us, we may survive to plant again. Such is His mercy to us beyond deserving. Our gratitude is complete, for God has blessed us with life and hope."

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing"

Hymn 433

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing: sing praises to his Name; he forgets not his own.

A Reading from the **Preamble to the Constitution**

Read by Mark French

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Hymn 717

"My country, 'tis of thee"

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring.

Sybil Ludington (1761–1839) was a heroine of the American Revolutionary War. On April 26, 1777, at age 16, she made an all-night horseback ride to alert militia forces in the towns of Putnam Country, NY, and Danbury, CT, of the approach of British forces.

Listen, my daughters, oh, hear with pride of a seventeen, seventy-seven ride.
With Longfellow's Paul we have no quibble, but now it is time to proclaim our Sybil.
Women live longer, of that I'm sure
So there may be some who have heard of her.
One night in April when Danbury burned and the daring mission brave men spurned,
Sybil (aged 16) mounted her steed and through the farmlands she did speed.

In three hours' time she went forty miles and quickly soldiers o'er walls and stiles rushed with muskets strong in hand to ferret the British from their land.

The brave girl mustered New York's defense and saved five towns from war's expense.

Though poets long ignored her name, we offer Sybil Ludington to women's hall of fame. Lest you think the bicentennial is macho sauce, women did more than provide Betsy Ross.

Nayan McNeill, July 1976

Hymn 597

"O day of peace, that dimly shines"



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O Great Spirit: whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me.

I come before you, one of your many children – I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made, and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise to the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

So when life fades as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

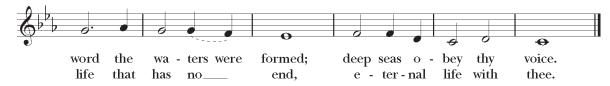
Hymn 385

"Many and great, O God, are thy works"









Words: American folk hymn; rev. Philip Frazier (1892-1964), alt. Music: Dakota Indian Chant [Lacquiparle], Native American melody

A Reading from Martin Luther King, Jr.

Read by the Rev. Ricardo Avila

In 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke to the crowd assembled on the Mall:

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given its colored people a bad-check, a check that has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. We have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is not time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to make real the promise of America. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality to all of God's children.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you, my friends, we have the difficulties of today and tomorrow. I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.

I have a dream today.

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to climb up for freedom together, knowing that we will free one day.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty we are free at last."

Hymn

"We shall overcome"

We shall overcome, we shall overcome some day. Deep in my heart, I do believe that we shall overcome some day.

A reading from Rob Boston concerning present dangers

Read by the Rev. Ernest Cockrell

Attorney Robert Boston was born in Altoona, PA, on December 7, 1962. He is the Senior Advisor for Americans United for the Separation of Church & State, and is the editor of Church & State Magazine. He is the author of four books including Why the Religious Right is Wrong. This reading is from Volume 74, #4 edition of Church & State, April 2021.

(As President Eisenhower warned of the "military-industrial complex," so Rob Boston warns of a present danger to our nation.)

The mob that attacked the U. S. Capitol January 6 included a large cohort that hoisted Confederate battle flags and (political name) banners. But mixed among those standards were other signs, ones bearing crosses and references to Christ, seeing their efforts as a holy crusade.

The term "Christian nationalism" describes a political movement that seeks to topple church-state separation and declare America a "Christian nation" — a religio-political force of extreme Christian fundamentalists who seek to tear down the church-state wall, "Christianize" public schools and other government institutions, roll back women's rights, strip LGBTQ Americans of basic freedoms and impose a theocratic state on the country.

From a theological perspective, Christian nationalism is idolatrous because it conflates God and country and leads to the suppression of theological convictions that conflict with political power. Christian nationalism is not a religion, it is a political ideology – above all, it is an assault on pluralistic democracy. Make no mistake: these rioters threaten every freedom we claim, including religious freedom.

Just as many Muslim leaders have felt the need to denounce distorted, violent versions of their faith, we feel the urgent need to denounce this violent mutation of our faith. What we saw manifest itself in the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, is a threat to our democracy, but it is also a threat to orthodox Christian faith. The word 'Christian' means 'Christ-like.' As leaders in the Church, we do not agree on everything, but we can agree on this – Christians should live in a way that honors Jesus, and reminds the world of Him.

In 2019 the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty launched Christians Against Christian Nationalism, an effort to highlight faith voices opposed to the injudicious mixing of church and state, writing, 'Christian Nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.'

Hymn (verse 1)

"Once to every man and nation"

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, In the strife of truth with falsehood for the good or evil side; Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight, And the choice goes by for ever 'Twist that darkness and that light.

The Holy Gospel

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mathew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:43–48

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Hymn (verse 2)

"Once to every man and nation"

Then the side with truth is noble when we share her wretched crust, Ere her cause bring fame and profit and 'tis prosperous to be just; New occasions teach new duties, time makes ancient good uncouth; They must upward still and onward who would keep abreast of truth.

The Nicene Creed

Said by all.

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 truly 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of the People: Thanksgivings for National Life

BCP p. 838

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.

Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.

Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Said by all.
God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Ushers will come to each person with offering plate, that those who wish to donate may do so.

Offertory Hymn 226 (LEVAS)

"Mine eyes have seen the glory"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword, His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat, He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgement seat; O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me; As He died to make men holy, let us live to make all free, While God is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

Prayers Over the Gifts

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, **and of your own have we given you. Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the Cup of Salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, friends, that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty. May the Lord receive this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of God's Name, both to our benefit and that of all God's Holy Church. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord 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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life. You made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Said by all
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,

The Breaking of the Bread

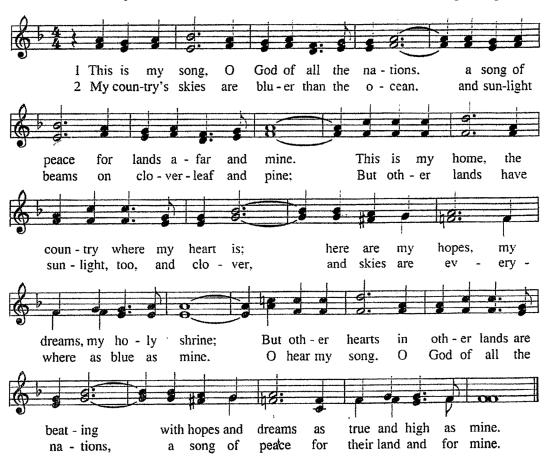
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn

"This Is My Song"



May truth and freedom come to every nation!
My peace abound where stride has raged so long;
that each may seek and love to build together
a world united, righting every wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.

Post-Communion Prayer

The People stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Said by all.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

God bless America, land that I love, stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above. From the mountains to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home, God bless America, my home sweet home.

A Benediction from Jerusalem

May the Babe of Bethlehem bring you Joy!
May the Youth of Nazareth bring you Hope!
May the Man of Galilee bring you Strength!
May the Risen Lord of Jerusalem bring you Love!
And the God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustaining Spirit bring you Peace!
AMEN!

"God bless our native land"

Hymn 716

God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand through storm and night: when the wild tempests rave, ruler of wind and wave, do thou our country save by thy great might.

For her our prayers shall rise to God, above the skies; on him we wait; thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye, to thee aloud we cry, God save the state!

Celebrant Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary & Procession

Stars & Stripes Forever John Phillip Sousa



FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

Flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God by the Hall family with gratitude for and in memory of Jim Hall.



Servers—July 4, 2021

Officiant/Preacher The Rev. Ernest Cockrell

Acolyte/Intercessor Pat Waddell

Lectors Cheryl Lawrence, Mark French,

Barbara Stafford,

The Rev. Nayan McNeill, The Rev. Ricardo Avila, The Rev. Ernest Cockrell

Organist Colin Whitby-Strevens

Cantors Kirk Young & Marilyn Everett
Ushers Kenna French & Lewis Pollard
Altar Guild Stephen Wells, Connie Beck, &

Pat Whitby-Strevens



Cover: Our Banner in the Sky, ca. 1861

by Frederic Edwin Church (1826–1900) b. Connecticut

de Young Museum, San Francisco

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a place of peace, beauty, and relationship that reflects God's saving presence through our rich Tradition, our intellectual curiosity, and our work in the wider community.

Saint Luke's Clergy & Staff

Rector The Rev. Ricardo Avila

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Assisting Clergy The Rev. Ernest Cockrell

The Rev. R. Clark Emerson The Rev. Nayan McNeill

The Very Rev. William S. Stafford

Music Director Mr. Nicholas Mourlam

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Parish Administrator Mr. Michael King

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Treasurer Mr. Art Feather

Altar Guild Coordinator Ms. Carol Graham

Liturgist Mr. Pat Waddell

Outreach/Pantry Director Ms. Jo Greiner

Rector Emeritus The Rev. David R. Breuer

Saint Luke's Vestry • vestry@stlukeslg.org

Genevieve Cleveland Martha Sterne

Toni Dick Colin Whitby-Strevens

Craig Martyn Ann Whyte (Junior Warden) Monique Nicolai Kirk Young (Senior Warden)

Jane Ogle Carol Graham (Non-Vestry Clerk)

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