

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts



The Holy Eucharist with Confirmation and Reception

Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 10am



Descant

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day, with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Bishop then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit:

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop One Lord, One Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lessons

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes

from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus..

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er liv - ing as the Church's
 2 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er work - ing through the Church's

ve - ry life; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er striv - ing
 min - is - try; quick - ening, strength - ening, and ab - solv - ing,

through her in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er
 set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er

form - ing in the Church the mind of Christ; thee we praise with
 bind - ing age to age, and soul to soul, in a fel - low -

end - less wor - ship for thy fruits and gifts un - priced.
 ship un - end - ing thee we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. Copyright © by A.R. Mowbray & Co, Ltd. Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (b. 1907) Copyright ©1942, renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

All standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those

wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Right Reverend Julia E. Whitworth

Musical Interlude

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

Bishop The Candidates will now be presented.

Candidates and their sponsors stand.

Presenters I present *these persons* for Confirmation.
I present *these persons* to be received into this Communion.
I present *these persons* who desires to reaffirm
her baptismal vows.

Bishop 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 Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

All stand.

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 cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

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

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of 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.**
All remain standing for the Prayers for the Candidates.

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.
A person appointed 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.

Bishop 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 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 forever.
Amen.

Explanation of Process

The candidates, presenters, family, and friends come forward.

Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each person and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him/her* for your service; and sustain *him/her* all the days of *his/her* life. **Amen.**

or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *she/he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *she/he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Reception

N., 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.**

Reaffirmation

N., 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.**

Choral Anthem *Listen, sweet dove*

Grayston Ives (b. 1948);
text by George Herbert (1593-1633)

*Listen, sweet dove, unto my song,
And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long,
Till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow
The earth did like a heav'n appeare;
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages and serve here.*

*The sunne which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head and wisht for night,
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one
Going about the world and giving light.

Lord, though we change, thou art the same,
The same sweet God of love and light:
Restore this day for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.

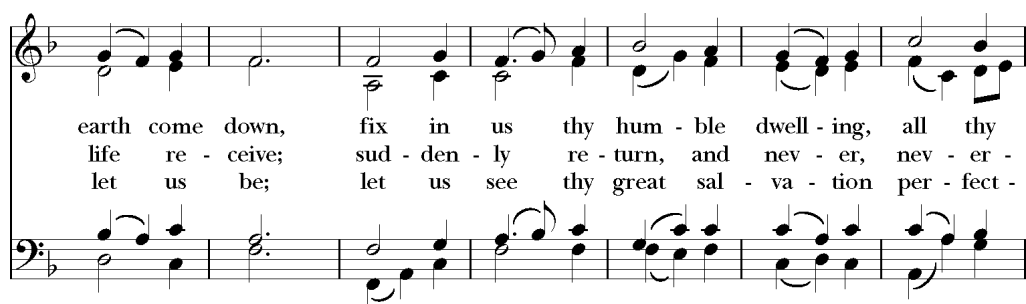
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Hymn 657 "Love divine, all loves excelling"

Hyfrydol


1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Bishop Almighty and everlasting 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 is exchanged.

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory

Today's offering is designated to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, earmarked for Theological Education. This will help give financial aid to those training for ordination for their seminary costs. Checks should be made out to "Bishop's Discretionary Fund."

Offertory Anthem *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace*

S.S. Wesley (1810-1876)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.

The darkness is no darkness with Thee, but the night is as clear as the day.

The darkness and the light to Thee are both alike.

God is light and with Him is no darkness at all.

O, let my soul live, and it shall praise Thee.

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for evermore.

Doxology Hymn 380, vs.3 "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

Old 100th

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseauxmes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

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

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Bishop It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S 129

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Bishop

Holy and gracious God: 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:

Bishop and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Bishop

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Holy One, 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

Bishop

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

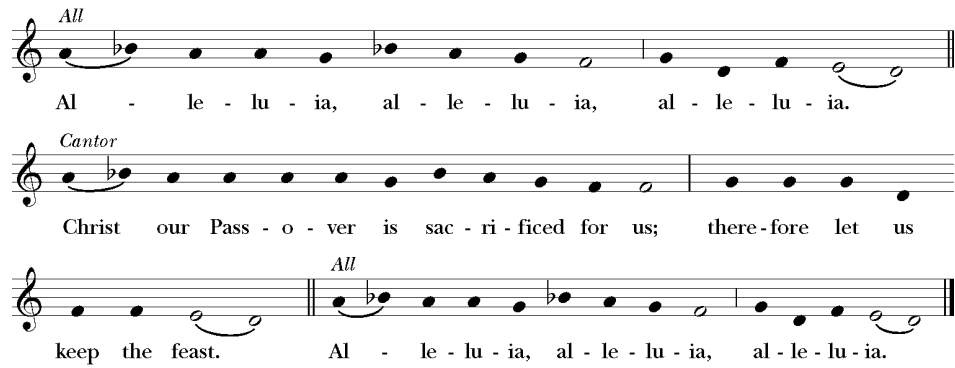
Bishop

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore let us keep the feast.

All



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us

All

keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Bishop The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution of Communion

Choral Anthem *O sacrum convivium*

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

*O sacrum convivium in quo sumitur;
recolitur memoria passionis eius,
mens impletur gratia;
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

*O sacred banquet, wherein Christ is received;
the memorial of his passion is renewed;
the soul is filled with grace;
and a pledge of future glory is given to us.*

1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly

heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a

ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to

flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and

on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt. Music: *Nettleton*, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813;
 harm. Gerre Hancock (b. 1934) Copyright ©1971 by Walton Music Corporation. International Copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Postcommunion Prayer

Bishop Let us pray.

Bishop and People

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 your 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.**

Blessing

Bishop

People

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
The maker of heaven and earth.

Bishop

People

Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
From this time forth for evermore.

The Bishop blesses the people.

Hymn 506 "Praise the Spirit in creation"

Finnian



- 1 Praise the Spi - rit in cre - a - tion, breath of God, life's
- 2 Praise the Spi - rit, close com - pan - ion of our in - most
- 3 Praise the Spi - rit, who en - light - ened priests and pro - phets
- 4 Tell of how the a - scend - ed Je - sus armed a peo - ple
- 5 Pray we then, O Lord the Spi - rit, on our lives de -
- 6 Praise, O praise the Ho - ly Spi - rit, praise the Fa - ther,



- 1 or - i - gin: Spi - rit, mov - ing on the wa - ters,
- 2 thoughts and ways; who, in show - ing us God's won - ders,
- 3 with the word; his the truth be - hind the wis - doms
- 4 for his own; how a hun - dred men and wo - men
- 5 scend in might; let your flame break out with - in us,
- 6 praise the Word, Source, and Truth, and In - spi - ra - tion,



- 1 quick - ening worlds to life with - in, source of breath to
- 2 is him - self the power to gaze; and God's will, to
- 3 which as yet know not our Lord; by whose love and
- 4 turned the known world up - side down, to its dark and
- 5 fire our hearts and clear our sight, till, white - hot in
- 6 Trin - i - ty in deep ac - cord: through your voice which



- 1 all things breath - ing, life in whom all lives be - gin.
- 2 those who lis - ten by a still small voice con - veys.
- 3 power, in Je - sus God him - self was seen and heard.
- 4 fur - thest cor - ners by the wind of hea - ven blown.
- 5 your pos - ses - sion, we, too, set the world a - light.
- 6 speaks with - in us we, your crea - tures, call you Lord.

Words: Michael Hewlett (b. 1916), alt. Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

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Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Dialogue sur les mixtures" from *Suite Brève*

Jean Langlais

The congregation remains in place as the closing procession passes.

Please join us for a reception following the service, downstairs in the parish hall.

Parish Prayer List

Cynthia Scott, Patricia, Asher Griffin, Carol Haynes Nelson, Alison Gregory Larson, Caroline Gregory, Gertrude Hughes, Cam Czubek, Barbara Henderson, Leslie Holmes, C.J., Landis Greathouse, Shelby Pierce, Pat MacKinnon, Stephen, Marina, John Cigan, Michael Vanin, Tomoko, Ralph Mercer, Donald, Katherine, Wayne, Barry, Trip, Joan W., Susan Link, John Wright, Rosie, Kiki H., Betsy C., Annie, Duke Devlin, Lianne Young, Pat Gillooly, and Laurin Baldwin.



ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

79 DENTON ROAD

WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 02482

781.235.7310 • STANDREWSWELLESLEY.ORG