

# Ash Wednesday



February 17, 2021

**THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY**  
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE



**Ash Wednesday**

Wide Open Doors    Wide Open Hearts

## **Today we observe the penitential liturgy of Ash Wednesday.**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs forty-six days before Easter. It falls on a different date each year, since it is dependent on the date of Easter. It can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10.

There are 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day because Lent is 40 days long and does not include Sundays. The Sundays in Lent are, like every Sunday, a thanksgiving for and celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ash Wednesday is named for the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance. The ashes used are gathered after the palms from Palm Sunday celebrations in the previous year are burned.

The Solemn Liturgy of Ash Wednesday provides us with an opportunity to examine ourselves, and identify and acknowledge what is wrong, out of alignment, destructive, and mean in our lives. The ashes imposed on our foreheads are a sign that we have undertaken this profound and honest self-examination and are honest about its results. Ash Wednesday does not end there. We receive the ashes in the context of a call to amend our lives, to commit ourselves to a spiritual reawakening, and to a rededicate ourselves to service in Christ's name.

This year, as we remain virtual, you are invited to use the blessed vine charcoal we sent to your home to mark your own head with a cross.

# Ash Wednesday

## The Entrance Rite

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*Officiant* Blessed be the God of our salvation.

*People* **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Word of God

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*The people sit.*

### The First Lesson

**Joel 2:1-2,12-17**

*Reader* **A reading from the Prophet Joel.**

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence is kept.*

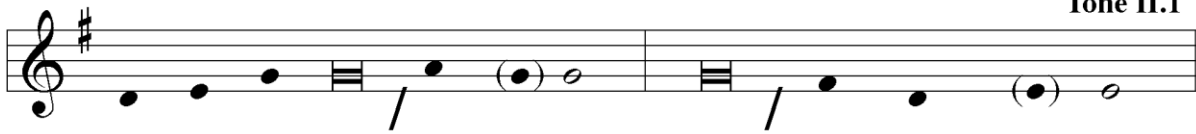
# Psalm 103

Tone II.1



- 1 *Bless the LORD, / O my soul,\**  
and all that is within me, bless / his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, / O my soul,\*  
and forget not all / his benefits.
- 3 He forgives / all your sins\*  
and heals all your / infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the / grave\*  
and crowns you with mercy and lov/ing-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with / good things,\*  
and your youth is renewed like / an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes / righteousness\*  
and judgment for all / who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to / Moses\*  
and his works to the children / of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and / mercy,\*  
slow to anger and of / great kindness.
- 9 He will not always ac/cuse us,\*  
nor will he keep his anger / for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our / sins,\*  
nor rewarded us according to / our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high a/bove the earth,\*  
so is his mercy great upon those / who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the / west,\*  
so far has he removed / our sins from us.

Tone II.1



- 13 As a father cares for his / children,\*  
so does the LORD care for those / who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof / we are made;\*  
he remembers that / we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the / grass;\*  
we flourish like a flo/wer of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is / gone,\*  
and its place shall know / it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those  
who / fear him,\*  
and his righteousness on chil/dren's children;
- 18 On those who keep his / covenant\*  
and remember his commandments / and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in / heaven,\*  
and his kingship has domin/ion over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his /  
bidding,\*  
and hearken to the voice / of his word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all / you his hosts,\*  
you ministers of his / who do his will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his do/minion;\*  
bless the LORD, / O my soul.

## The Second Lesson

## 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6: 10

*Reader* A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord

*People* **Thanks be to God**

*Silence is kept.*

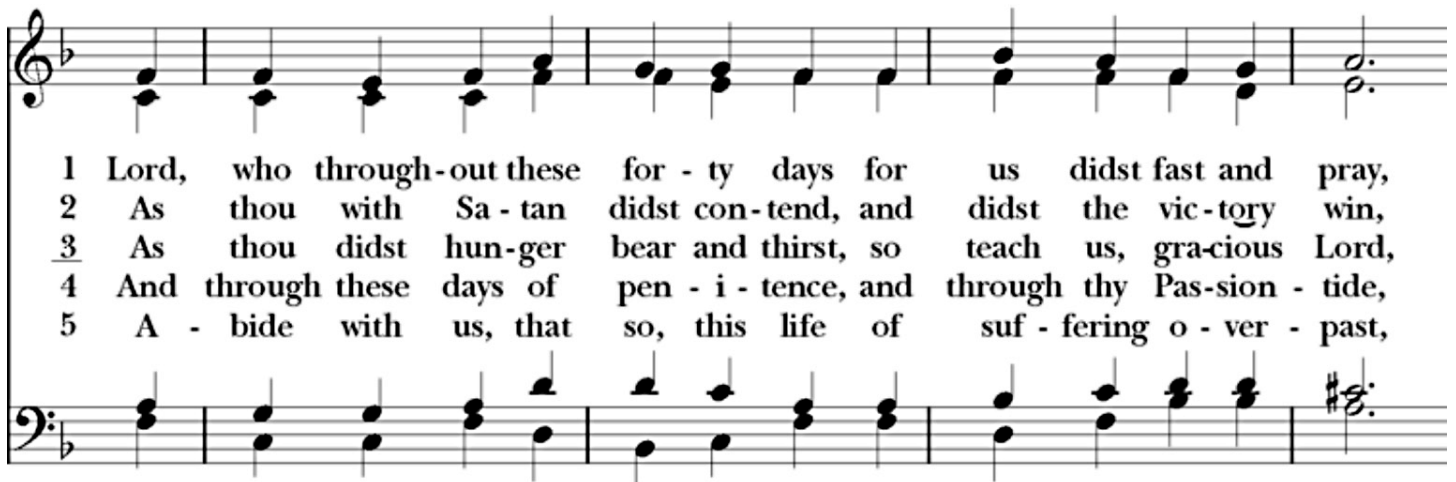
*Please stand as able*

## The Sequence

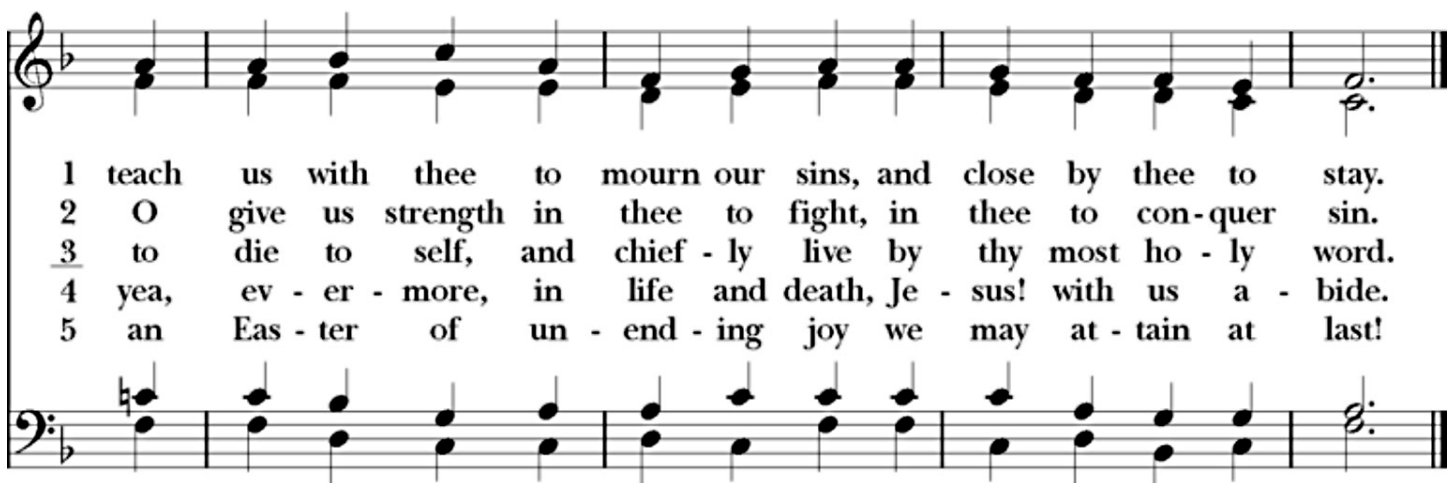
Hymn

*Lord, who through-out these forty days*  
*St. Flavian*

Hymnal 142



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win,  
3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,  
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,  
5 A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.  
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.  
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

## The Gospel

**Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

*Officiant* A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.



But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*Officiant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people sit.*

## **The Sermon**

*The Reverend Rachel Wenner Gardner*

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*Silence may be kept.*

## **The Invitation to a Holy Lent**

*Officiant* Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of

notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

*People*    **Amen.**

*The ministers and family impose ashes on each other, those at home who have received ashes may use the blessed charcoal to draw the sign of the cross on their heads. If you do not have ashes, you are invited to trace the sign of the cross on your head (or those within your household) and say the following words:*

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

*During the imposition of ashes, the choir sings the following Psalm*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness and  
cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in  
your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your  
judgment
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my  
mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make  
me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall  
be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have  
broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit  
within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy  
Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with  
your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return  
to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of  
your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your  
praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; but you take  
no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite  
heart, O God, you will not despise.

## Litany of Penitence

*The Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

**Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*Officiant* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Officiant* We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Officiant* We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Officiant* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Officiant* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Officiant* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Officiant* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Officiant* Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:  
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our  
indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Officiant* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our  
neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those  
who differ from us,

*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Officiant* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of  
concern for those who come after us,

*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Officiant* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*People* **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

*Officiant* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*People* **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Officiant* By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*People* **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Officiant* Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who  
desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn  
from their wickedness and live, has given power and  
commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to  
his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of  
their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent,  
and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and  
his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do  
on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure  
and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Anthem Miserere mei – William Byrd**

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. (Psalm 51:1)

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

## **The Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*All* **My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)**

## The General Thanksgiving

*All* **Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Closing Sentence

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.  
**Amen.**

*Unison or harmony*

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
 so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

**Postlude:** Meditation for Ash Wednesday

**June Nixon**

During Lent, we will be singing the psalms using plainsong – the oldest method of psalm singing in the church. Here are a few instructions for how to read the notation:

The first three notes [intonation] are used only for the beginning verse.  
 The Reciting Note (RN) is used for text up to the / symbol.  
 Words following the / symbol are sung syllabically to each note. (\*see below)  
 Parenthetical notes ( ) are only used when needed.  
 Notes indicate pitch. Natural word accents supply the rhythm.

Tone VIII.1

[intonation] RN / \* RN /

- 1 [ I was glad ] when they / said to me,\*  
 “Let us go to the / house of the LORD.
- 2 Now our feet are / stand-ing\*  
 within your gates, / O Je-ru-sa-lem.

\*The pointing for some half verses before an asterisk uses only the first note after the reciting note.  
 This is called an *Abrupt Mediation* (... number our / days\* - “G” reciting note ending on “A” for “days”.  
 (... from the / Lord,\* - “G” reciting note ending on “A” for “LORD”).

Tone VIII.1

So teach us to number our / days\*  
 that we may apply our / hearts to wisdom.  
 Children are a heritage from the / LORD,\*  
 and the fruit of the / womb is a gift.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Giving:** There are several ways to still give at CHT. You can text, CHT DONATE to 73256 or scan the QR code. Standard text message rates apply. You can give electronically [here](#). You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM ([www.htrit.org/give](http://www.htrit.org/give)).



**Join our E-List:** Sign up at [www.htrit.org](http://www.htrit.org)

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## PARTICIPANTS

### OFFICIANTS

The Reverend Rachel Wenner Gardner  
The Reverend John Gardner

### PRAYERS

### READINGS

Jeannie Welsh  
Christopher Jungers

## **STAFF**

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner & The Rev. John Gardner, Rectors  
Soozung Sa Rankin, Program Director  
Margaret DiPinto, Director of Operations  
Leda Milazzo, Administrative Receptionist  
Ella Christy, Rentals Manager  
Sarah Mammano, House Manager

## **MUSIC STAFF**

Dr. Benjamin Leiby, Organist/Choirmaster *pro tempore*  
Dr. John French, Organist/Choirmaster *emeritus*  
Choral Singers: Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Carl Ellinwood,  
Andrew Gutknecht, Kate Hoffman, Samuel Keeler, John Miles,  
Titus Muzi, Ellen Peters, Aimee Pilgermayer, and Kelly Rubinsohn  
Kile Smith, Composer-in-Residence  
Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence

## **Vestry**

Rectors' Warden – Oscar Gunther  
Accounting Warden – Michael Uftring  
Clerk – Nancy Rasmussen  
Vestry Members - Gail Caruso, Sally Griffith, Gordon P.  
Henderson, Simson Hui, Greg Maughan, Madelyn Mignatti, Amy  
Perkins, and Emily Stromberg