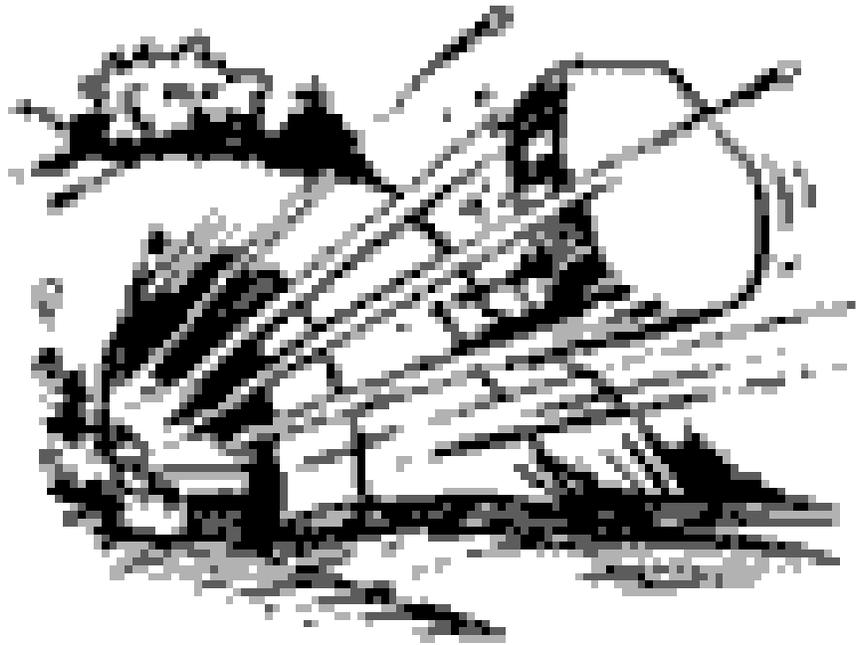


Christ Episcopal Church

...Making a Difference!

The Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 2, 2021

Rite I – 8:00 a.m.



Note: All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table in this place. You can stand or kneel at the altar rail. Extend a raised palm to receive a wafer, which you can either eat immediately or wait for a Eucharistic Minister to dip in the wine and place on your tongue. If you have eaten your bread when the chalice comes, hold the cup at the bottom and direct it to your mouth for a sip of wine. For those who do not wish to drink the wine, just cross your arms over your chest when the cup comes by. Stay at the altar rail as long as you wish.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Celebrant:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life;

through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The people sit.

THE LESSON

Acts 8:26–40

A Lesson from Acts 8:26–40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24–30

Deus, Deus meus

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

THE EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-21

A Lesson from 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The Word of The Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The people stand.

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

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 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially, **Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andrew, our Bishop; Dorsey, & Frank, our bishops retired; Gordon, our priest in charge;** that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor **Sherry Stalvey, Gene Alexander*, Rebecca Bryson, Brent Burgin, Lynda Horton, Kevin Jaillette, Tim Nichols, Helen, Andy Caudill, Wes Galloway, Brenda Sutton, Pat McManus;** and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays especially, [] and those celebrating anniversaries especially, [].

We also pray for [**Still Hopes and Finlay House Retirement Communities** .]

We also pray for [**Michael Killingsworth, Stephen Killingsworth, Joe Galloway, Will Woodruff, Andy Helwig and all who serve in our Armed Services; and those who serve in public safety in our community** .]

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially, [**Nancy King Cauthen**] beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant and **People:** All things come of thee, O Lord; *And of thine own have we given thee.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer I

The people remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: *It is meet and right so to do.*

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

Celebrant and **People:**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

This may be sung or said

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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

or with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

or with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and **The People:**

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Psalm 98

WEEKLY & MONTHLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday

Choir Practice 10:00 a.m.

Rite I 8:00 a.m.

Adult Study 9:15 a.m. – meet in the Sanctuary

Rite II 10:30 a.m. (in-person, 107.5 FM, & Facebook Live)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Please contact the church office if your birthday or anniversary is this week.

FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by Barbara Gibson in honor of her daughters, Mary Beth Lyles and Jennifer Page and her grandsons, Jonah, Ethan, Elijah and Samuel.

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

DATE	CELEBRANT	TELLERS	ALTAR GUILD
Sunday, May 2, 2021	Gordon Hamilton	Caroline Oliver & Linda Baker	Robert Horton

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Terry Michaelson*, Sloan McLaughlin, Brooke Hamilton, Makenzie White, Jon Bryson, Bobby McInville, Susan Bowers, Buddy Lever, Savannah Seegars, Randy Horton, Susanne Mitchell, Ben Robertson*, Sara Anne Foster*, Tracey Davis, Charles Ballard, Julie Percival, Sis Parker, Peggy Catoe, Alan Hedricks, Avis Clyburn, Arlene Lifsey, Willis Ballard, Eric Hough, John Riemann*, Dennis Melton, Bill Moorner, Dianne Norman McMahon, Sherry Stalvey, Gene Alexander*, Rebecca Bryson, Brent Burgin, Lynda Horton, Kevin Jaillette, Tim Nichols, Helen, Andy Caudill, Wes Galloway, Brenda Sutton, Pat McManus, Dixie Roberts, Hayes Robinson, Richard Knight, Joan Bixby*, Geary Yamashita, Aubrey Crawford*, Tric Deaton*, Kay Lambertson*, Gina Farley, Peggy Catoe, Samuel Deese, The Conner Family, Joel, Patricia, Gail, Charlie

The Little Church That Could: This money will go toward meeting our budget deficit. Even though the little church is not completely empty, let's work on filling it up again!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

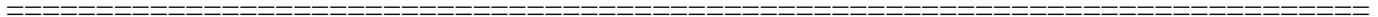
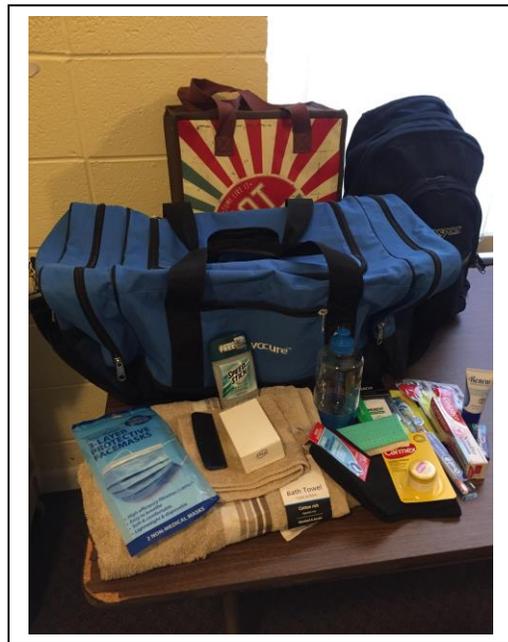
HOPE Needs:

The first Sunday of each month will be designated as HOPE Sunday at Christ Church. Please consider contributing to this wonderful organization. They are especially in need of the following items: **Rice (1 or 2 pound box/bag), dry pasta, canned pasta, grits, fruit juice (can or carton), canned meats, and plastic grocery bags.**

Food for HOPE needs to be placed in the food basket for the offering each Sunday.

Items are still needed for comfort kits for the homeless. Twenty bags have been completed, but we would like to provide ten bags every couple of months for this ongoing community outreach. Please consider providing ten of the same item from the list below. There is a container at the side entrance for these items.

- Washcloth
- Dental floss
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- First Aid Kit
- Body Wash
- Gum/Candy
- Pen/ Pad
- Comb for men
- Hair Brush for Women
- Kleenex
- Hand Cream
- Shampoo
- Mini pad pack(women)
- Emery Board
- Water Bottle
- Lip Balm
- Socks





Lancaster Breakfast Rotary Club
Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 18th
11:00 am - 3:30 pm

University of South Carolina
Pete Arnold Special Events Room
Bradley Arts and Sciences Bldg.
476 Hubbard Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720

All donations will receive COVID19 antibody
testing!

Please schedule your appointment online at
redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code
'LancasterRotary'

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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◀ Apr 2021

May 2021

Jun 2021 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 HOPE Sunday 8:00 am – Rite I 10:30 am – Rite II	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 HOPE Sunday 8:00 am – Rite I 10:30 am – Rite II Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
18 HOPE Sunday 8:00 am – Rite I 10:30 am – Rite II Vestry 12:30 pm	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 HOPE Sunday 8:00 am – Rite I 10:30 am – Rite II	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 HOPE Sunday 8:00 am – Rite I 10:30 am – Rite II	31 Office closed	8:00 am H.E. Rite I 10:30 am H.E. Rite II				

Bishop of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina

The Right Reverend W. Andrew Waldo

Priest in Charge

The Reverend Gordon Hamilton

Parish Musician

Valarie A. Valois

Vestry Members

Linda Baker- Senior Warden ('21), Drew Clarke ('22), Joan Crawford ('21), Miller Deaton-Junior Warden ('22), Pam Giardiello ('23), Ernest Jenkins ('21), and Caroline Oliver ('23)

Treasurer

Chris Smith

Clerk

Nicki Robertson

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Lancaster, SC

Church Office 803-286-5224

The Rev. Gordon Hamilton 803-246-9027

E-mail: episcopal@comporium.net and ghamilton@comporium.net

Website: www.christchurchlancaster.com / Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church

Christ Church – where we gather to worship, pray, sing, and share so together we may serve our community and the world.

