



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church *Lake Jackson, Texas*

Our Vision

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we experience the love of Jesus Christ
and share it with others.*

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **December 17, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to St. Timothy's! You are invited to participate fully in today's worship service. This bulletin contains all the prayers and responses said by the People. If you wish to use the Book of Common Prayer [BCP], the page numbers are given in brackets. Music not printed here may be found in the Blue Hymnal 1982 on the rack in front of you.

Why Advent? The Latin word translates "coming". Advent marks the beginning season of the church year in which we prepare, simplify, make space for Christ's coming both in the past, present and future. Each Sunday in Advent reminds us of the gifts in which we receive from Christ's coming: HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Each week we will light an advent candle as a way of remembering and marking time. We will read a scripture related to how Jesus brought this gift to the world uniquely and then say a prayer. You can do this at home as well.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn *(all sing)*

Blest Be The King Whose Coming

Hymn 74

Third Sunday of Advent

Member: Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Opening Acclamation

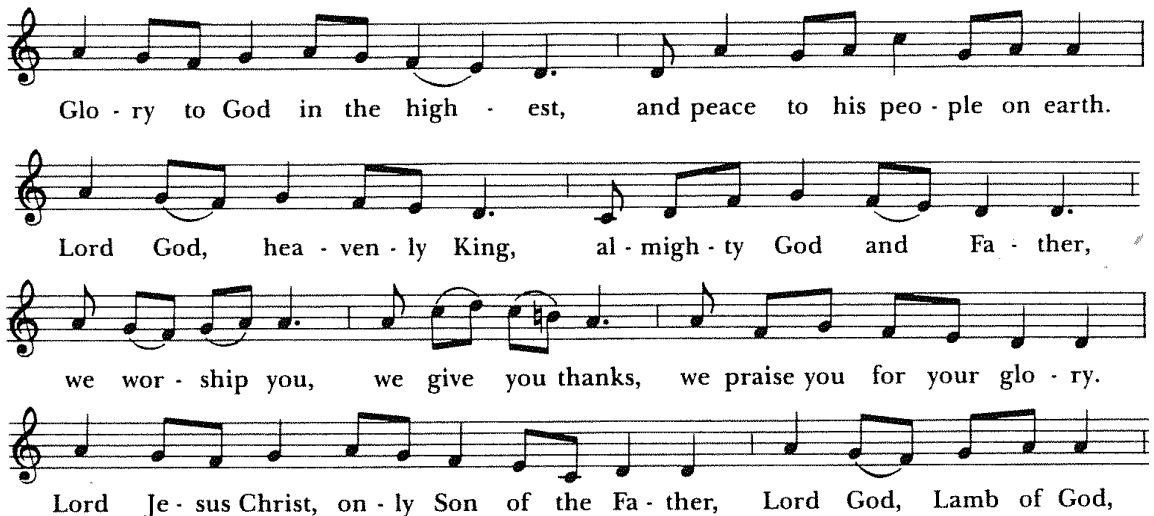
[BCP 355]

Priest Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People **His mercy endures forever.**

Collect for Purity

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

Glory to God (S273) (all sing)



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive

our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect

[BCP 212]

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (*sit*)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

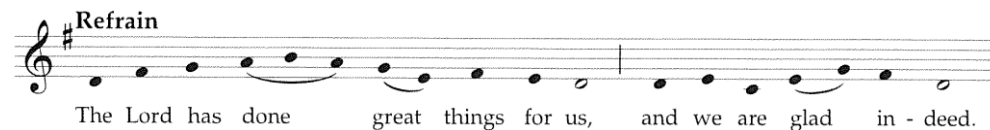
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

After the reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 (*sung by the cantor*)



1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Refrain

3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Refrain

5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Refrain

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not

despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

After the reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*all sing*) (*vs. 1-3, 7-8*) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **Hymn 56**

The Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

The Gospel passage is read.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon (*sit*)

The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kantze

The Nicene Creed (*stand*)

[BCP 358]

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 worshipped 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

Intercessor Let us pray to God, the source of all light and life. Send your spirit upon the Church, for the declaration of the Gospel to all nations.

People **Give to your people the prophetic voice that brings knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ.**

Intercessor Restore to new life the places that human sin and folly have made desolate. Guide into the true light of repentance those who work wrath and destruction.

People **Lead all nations to be one in the name of Christ.**

Intercessor Make us your messengers among our friends and neighbors, and all with whom we share our lives.

People **Bless to a rich harvest all the signs of hope and growth in our community.**

Intercessor Bring freedom to those who are unjustly in captivity and those who are imprisoned in their own despair.

People **Comfort and raise up to new life those whose hearts are broken by sorrow.**

Intercessor We give thanks for all who have heard the message of salvation and passed from this world into the full knowledge of Christ.

People **Keep us constant in faith until we too shall come to him.**

Intercessor We pray, confident in the grace of baptism and led by the light of Christ.

Silence

We pray for the special needs, concerns, and thanksgivings of this congregation and community. (*Intercessor waits a minute or two so people can add prayers aloud or silently.*)

Silence

We pray especially for members: Tony, Jim and James, Suzy, The Collins family, Lorna, John and Gayle, Mary, James, Jake, Denis and Judi, Bill, Kurt, Jessey, David, Steve, Michael, Robert, Kay and Roy, Donna and Larry, and Linda.

Thank you for the privilege to pray on behalf of friends and families: Kaley, Rose, Norman and family, Tay and William Petermann's family, Kayla, Addie, Natalla and family, Melissa, Weldon, Earlene, Brennan, Pam, Annette, Liam and family, James, Holly, Crystal and Billie, Jane, Kim, Nancy and Bill, Carmen, Kristi, Terri, Marie, Stephanie, Lane, Jaycie, Cody, Leisa, Mita, Jay, Alexander, Dustin, Kristi, Hannah, John, Margaret, Grace, Douglas, Steve, Jean, Rebecca, Kellye, Liz, Loorie, Derek, Mary, Eric, Judy, Kelly, Jocelyn, Cheryl, Terry, Matt, Kevin, Claire, Mary, Ken, and Amy.

For our men and women serving in the Armed Forces: Jordan, Brad, Lucas, Annie, Justin, Joseph, Caleb, Ed, Brett, Thea, Jaycob, and Joshua.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal Kingdom.

For the diocesan cycle of prayer: Santa Maria Virgen in Houston, St. Andrew's in Houston, St. Christopher's in Houston, and the Diocese of Peshawar.

Concluding Prayer

Priest O Lord, without whom our labor is lost: We beseech you to prosper all works in your Church undertaken according to your holy will. Grant to your workers a pure intention, a patient faith, sufficient success on earth, and the blessedness of serving you in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

[BCP 360]

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Priest and People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

The Peace (*stand*)

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

- *Godly Play returns to sanctuary.*

Members of St. Timothy's healing prayer team are available in the side chapel to pray with anyone who desires healing for themselves or others. Simply go to the side chapel after taking communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence: But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

Note: As Episcopalians, we believe in some mysterious way the whole Host of Heaven is present with us at communion. This can be a comfort to those whose loved ones have already died.

The Offertory

The Angel Gabriel
Chancel Choir

Malcolm Archer

(The gifts are brought forward by members)

Doxology *(The people stand) (all sing)*

Hymn 380, vs. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Priest: All things come from thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving *(stand)*

[BCP 367]

Eucharistic Prayer B

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

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

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 (S129) *(all sing)*

Setting by Robert Powell

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._____

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made

us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Facing the people, the priest says the following invitation

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 Ministration of Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to come to the Lord's Table and receive the bread and wine of communion. Others are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest just before you receive communion.

Communion Hymns

- **Hymn 66** (*all sing*) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
- **Hymn 640** (*all sing*) *Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night*

Post Communion Prayer *(stand or kneel)*

[BCP 366]

Priest Let us pray.

Priest and People **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.**

When a Eucharistic Visitor is sent out:

Priest N., in the name of Jesus Christ and of this congregation,
I send you forth bearing these holy gifts,

People that those to whom you go may share in the Communion
of Christ's Body and Blood.

All *We who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.*

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn *(all sing)*

Prepare The Way, O Zion

Hymn 65

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Parish Announcements

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 19: 6:30 p.m., Vestry Meeting in the Blue Room

Friday, December 22: Church Office closed in observance of Christmas

Sunday, December 24: 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (combined service)
5:30 p.m. Family Service with No Rehearsal Play
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day – 10:30 a.m., one service - Holy Eucharist, no music. Bring bells!
Church Office closed in observance of Christmas

Tuesday, December 26: Church Office closed in observance of Christmas.

Sunday, December 31: Lessons and Carols, 10:30 service (combined service)

Monday, January 1: Church Office closed in observance of New Year's Day

Sunday, January 7: Epiphany Sunday - Kings Cake and Nativity display in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 service

Sunday, January 21: Installation of New Vestry members (10:30 service)

Sunday, January 28: Annual Parish Meeting and Chili Cookoff

Christmas Flowers Donation – The envelopes in today's bulletin should be familiar to all of you who have been at St. Timothy's through a Christmas or Easter past. Your memories and/or thanksgivings are listed in the bulletins for Christmas Eve, and your donations help with the cost of our wonderful decorations. This year's **deadline is today, December 17th** for your requests to be listed in the bulletin. Please put envelopes in the offering plate or bring to the office. Thank you.

Save the Date! Parish Meeting & Chili Cookoff, Sunday, January 28th – Annual Parish Meeting and 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff for prizes.

Have you thought about having your child baptized? January 7th, The Epiphany of Our Lord, is an ideal day!

As Episcopalians, we believe in baptism for infants and young children. Parents may decide on behalf of their child to have them baptized. As teens, they can reaffirm this decision with confirmation.

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please let Pastor Robin know. She will be meeting with families by appointment. Please contact her at 832-922-7022 to schedule an appointment.

New Year Food Basket Needs - Help our neighbors stretch their food budgets by donating plain white rice, (1 or 2-pound bags.) White rice is a very popular pantry staple that suits many diets and cultures. At this time, the Food Basket is critically low on rice.

Note that the Food Basket will be closed for Christmas and much-needed renovations from December 17 - January 2. Your donations will be delivered in early January.

New Workroom PC! We have a new PC in the workroom, and it's fast! The old PC is still available at the reception desk. If you are a user of the old PC, please transfer your important files to the new PC by January 31, 2024. A thumb drive is provided to help you copy files.

If there are any programs or settings you need set up and are unable to do it yourself, please let Sondra Griner know, and she will do her best.

Godly Play - A Class for Children Ages 3-10 During Worship - Children ages 3-10 gather at 10:30, (before the start of the worship service,) in Room 370, at the end of the hallway. Godly Play is a Montessori-based program that uses story, wonder, and play. The lesson lasts 45 minutes, so your kids will be back in time for communion.

The class leaders are Jane Power and Maria Niswander. Please contact Jane Power for more information or if you are interested in helping.

Tabitha's Sewing Guild - Sewing together is a fun way to get to know each other and complete an easy sewing project. Our sewing group meets on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. in Room 250. If you have questions, please contact Sondra Griner.

Flowers On The Altar – Honor God – Give flowers to not only honor God and celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and those who have died, but to bless those who are sick and homebound.

If you would like to order flowers, the cost is \$75 for arrangements on the altar. You may give by check to Jackie (in the office) or put it in the offering plate with “flowers” in the memo line. You can sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex by the bulletin board.

Get our Church Directory - Our digital church directory is a great tool to help you know who's who, associate a name with a face, and reach out to another member. To get started, download the Instant Church Directory app, and log in with the email you provided to the office. New to St. Timothy's? Have an outdated picture? Take a new picture, and send it to the office at office@stimothy.org.

Got Announcements? Submit them Online! - You can submit announcement requests from the St. Timothy's website at www.stimothy.org/announcements

Notes:

This Week at St. Timothy's

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

9:30 a.m. – Formation Class, *Journeying in the Way of Love for Advent*, back of the Parish Hall

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11:45 a.m. – Fellowship in the Welcome Center

Monday, December 18, 2023

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

6:30 p.m. – Vestry Meeting, Blue Room

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

8:30 a.m. – Army of Retired Men (ARM), All are welcome

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Silent Prayer (In the Chapel)

6:00 p.m. – Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

8:00 p.m. – Compline, Facebook Live

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Friday, December 22, 2023

Church Office closed in observance of Christmas

10:00 a.m. – Healing Prayer Group (in the Welcome Center)

6:00-10:00 p.m. - Gulf Coast Duplicate Bridge Group, Blue Room

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer (combined service)

5:30 p.m. – Family Service with No Rehearsal Play

10:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Altar Party

Acolytes:

Chalicer/Intercessor: Angela McCabe

Lector: Sandra Weir

Cantor: Benjamin Dodson

Usher: Denis and Judi James

Healing Prayer: Cathy Richardson and Bunny Schockmel

Rector: The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz

Director of Music: Andrea Hutchison

Organist: Bonnie McDaniel

St. Timothy's Vestry

Gary Jones – Sr. Warden

Fran Hammond

Mark Lebnhoff – Jr. Warden

Dave Mayberry

Kerry Cormier

Angela McCabe

Margaret Dodson

Ron Weeks

Colinda Friehauf

Ed White

Keith Frank, Treasurer

Tony Janesbek, Stewardship Chair

Alexa Kincannon, Finance Chair

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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The text of the service of worship contained in this program is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas does not permit any person, including clergy, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors, to carry a weapon in our churches or schools. This prohibition applies even if the person is licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Texas law. Section 3.6 Clergy Manual.

