

## St. Francis Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

9:30 am

**Welcome to St. Francis.** Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

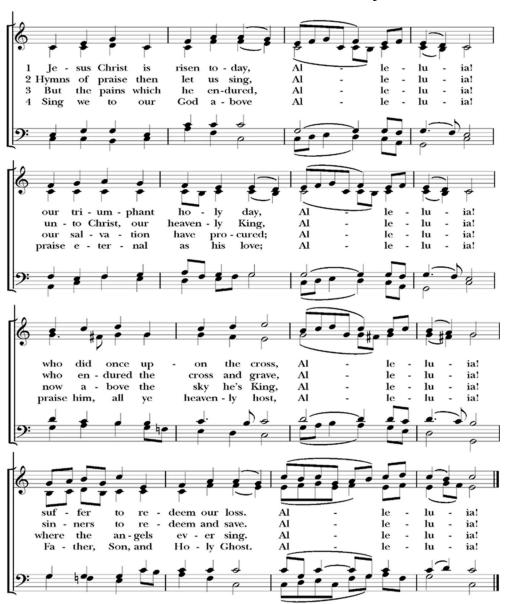
#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE PRELUDE

All stand, as able
THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today

Hymnal p. 207



#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

#### THE COLLECT OF PURITY

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.** 

#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (S-280)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

All sit for the lessons THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

#### People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \* his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let Israel now proclaim, \*

"His mercy endures for ever."

14 The LORD is my strength and my song,  $^{\star}$ 

and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory \*

in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*

the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, \*

and declare the works of the LORD.

- 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, \* but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*
  I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 "This is the gate of the LORD; \* he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \* and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected \* has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the LORD'S doing, \* and it is marvelous in our eyes .
- 24 On this day the LORD has acted; \* we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt. Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 16:1-8

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

#### People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY The Rev. Toni Belhu

Silence may be kept after the homily.

#### THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Book of Common Prayer p. 303

The Celebrant leads the people in the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, first addressing the people in these or similar words, all standing

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to

Jesus Christ?

People: I do.

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant 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.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.** 

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, for Toni our Rector, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Today we pray especially for Josephine, James, John, Ruth, Bobby, Helen, June, Wesley, Debbie, Charles, Sandra, Sally, Lyn, Jeanne, Lucinda, Mel, Lynn, Kensley, Malisha, Madison, Jim, Shirley, John, Billy, Beverly, Robin, Ricky, Mary, Shirley, Haden, Tony, Debbie, Chris, June, Gillian, Fran, Jack, Dee, and all those on our long-term prayer list. Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially Lucy Hooper (4), Tim Turner (4), Silas Turner (4).

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Jeremy, Nicholas, Nathan, Peter, Joseph, Tony, Christian, Brendan, Will, Tom, Christopher, Nick, Chase. We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Easter Sunday everywhere. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church in the Province of the West Indies.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile and John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary.

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence* 

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

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

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

*The Celebrant concludes with a collect.* 

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

All stand, as able

THE OFFERTORY HYMN Alleluia, alleluia! Hymnal p. 191



Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), alt. Music: Lux eoi, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900).

All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the Doxology.

#### THE DOXOLOGY

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.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Prayer A

The people remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

#### Then the Celebrant proceeds

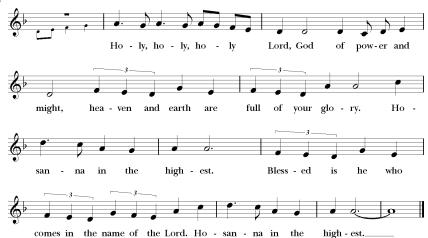
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

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)

Celebrant and People



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

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

People and Celebrant

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.

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

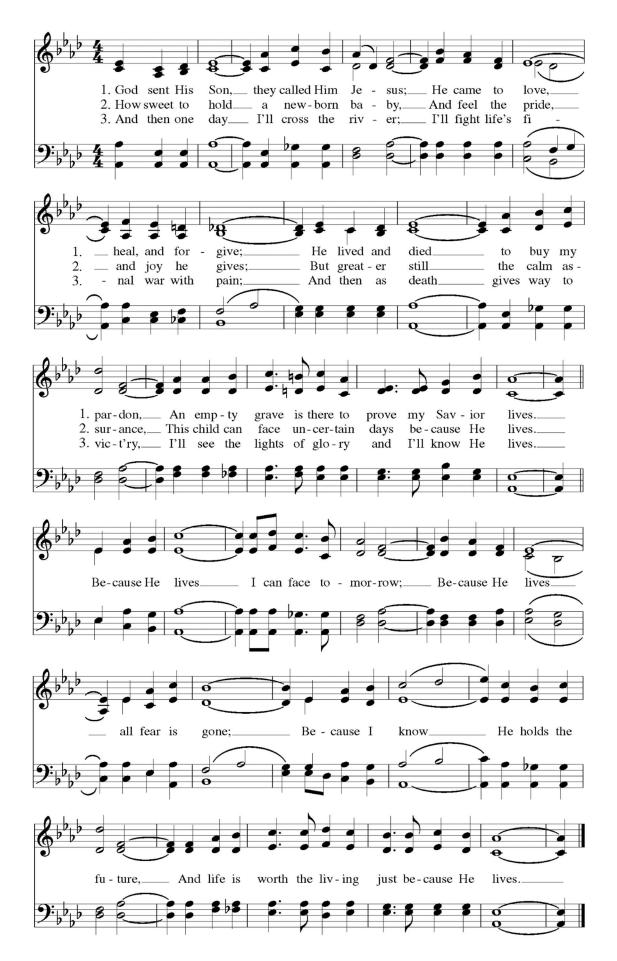
INVITATION TO HOLY EUCHARIST

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

To receive communion, come to the communion rail. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold one finger up to indicate to the priest you would prefer intinction.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make your need known to the priest.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion rail and cross your arms over the front of your chest. If you do not wish to receive the wine, after receiving the bread, please cross your arms over the front of your chest. This will alert the ministers of your wishes.





The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

Worder System Teelen (b. 1927) edent of John 6. Co.

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), adapt. of John 6. Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928). Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.



The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

Words: Donald Fishel (b. 1950) Music: Allehua No.1, Donald Fishel (b. 1950) Words, Music (melody): Copyright ©1973, The Word of God. arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928), Charles Mallory (b. 1950) and George Mims (b. 1938) Copyright ©1979, Celebration. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



Words: C. Austin Miles (1868-1946). Music: C. Austin Miles.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

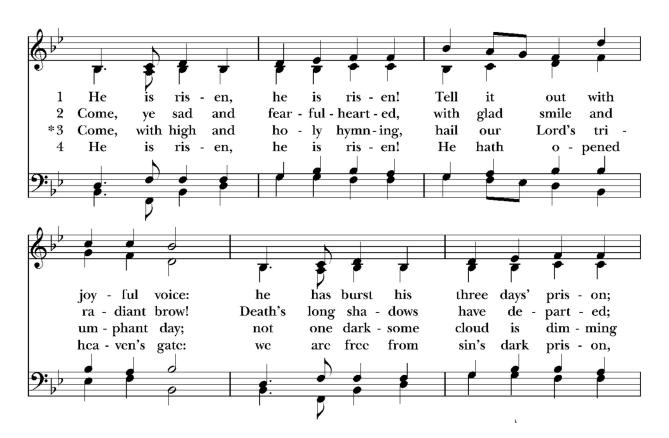
#### THE BLESSING

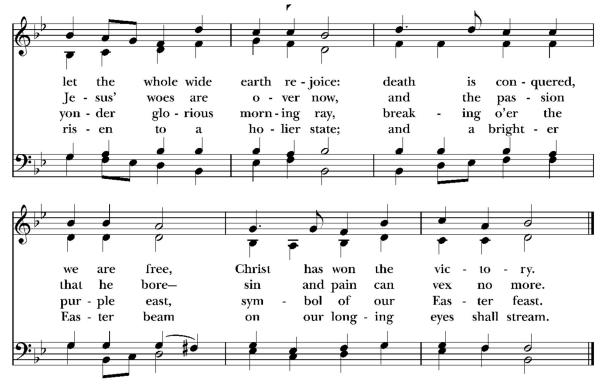
The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

He is Risen! He is Risen!

Hymnal p. 180





Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: Unser Herrscher, Joachim Neander (1650-1680).

#### THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST: James, Dickinson, Burtches, Zoey, Addison, Keith, Brenda, Tony, Judy, Ricky, Billy, Mary, Greg, Max, Johny, Layla Rose, Ramona, Edwin, Sherry, Mark, the Aytes family, Elora, Oscar.

#### Worship Leaders 9:30 am

Usher – Terra Putman, Don Corry Greeter – Anne Stanley 1st Lesson – Doug Tribou 2nd Lesson – Lucinda Humphries Chalicist – Rob McDaniel Acolyte – Anthony Guarriello Vestry Lock Up – Ann Stanley Camera – Stephanie Williams Children's Church – Linda Tribou, Judi Gustafson Fellowship – Linda Tribou Thurifer – Rebecca Melton

### Worship Leaders for next Sunday 9:30 am

TBD

#### Saint Francis Episcopal Church

408 North Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828-287-3888

Rector: The Rev. Toni Belhu

Email: rector@stfrancisrutherfordton.org

Parish Administrator: Kathryn McGowan

Email:

administrator@stfrancisrutherfordton.org

Organist: Steven Noll Sexton: Debbie Hamrick

www.stfrancisrutherfordton.org

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# The Easter Flowers have been given to the glory of God and ...

In Loving Memory of...

Roscoe Conn, Sr.

By The Conn Family

Ruth & Max Reger

By Nancy Bole

**Rob Bole** 

By Nancy Bole

Mary McKinney Taylor

By The Cunningham & McMahon Family

Robert L. Cunningham

By The Cunningham & McMahon Family

Mary M. Montie

By The Cunningham & McMahon Family

**Thomas Northrup** 

By The Joe Middleton Group

**Judy Scott** 

By The Scott Family

Friends and family loved and lost

By Bud & Anita Quinley

Loved ones we miss

By Anne & Richard Stanley

Dr. Harry G. Lee

By Anthony & Stacy Guarriello

Ruth McAlister Wilson Harold Edgar Morgan, Jr.

Martha Andes Morgan

By Harold & Elizabeth Morgan

In Loving Memory of...

David & Thelma Martin

By Ronnie & Christina Martin

Jesse McKinney

By Beverly McKinney & Kathryn McGowan

My beloved sister Susan Walker Cook

By Patricia Walker

Fred & Ruth Lowery
Terry Lowery
David Belhu

By The Rev. Toni Belhu

In Thanksgiving for...

The People of St. Francis Church

By The Rev. Toni Belhu

All those I am fortunate to meet and know entering our church door

By Linda Jeanne Harrill

Our family & friends

By Anne & Richard Stanley

**Beverly McKinney** 

By The McGowan Family

In Honor of...

Our children & grandchildren

By Bud & Anita Quinley

**Roy & Muriel Ross** 

By Steve & Allison Ross