

# Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

# December 28, 2025 First Sunday after Christmas & Baptism

#### **Ministry Assistants Today**

Lector: Cathy Ufheil
Intercessor: Susan Steele
Usher: Jim Ufheil
Altar Guild: Jeanette Woehr
Officiant: Rev. Chris Micklewright
Organist: Karen Whitney

#### **Ministry Assistants January 4**

Lector: Daria Kulp
Intercessor: Matt Mahler
Usher: Mark Roberts
Altar Guild: Rachel Armstrong
Celebrant: Rev. Chris Micklewright
Organist: Fred Astmann

## Welcome to (more) Christmas at Gloria Dei Episcopal Church!

The song about partridges, turtle doves, and the like reminds us that Christmas is not just a single day. Rather, we celebrate the birth of Jesus for a full twelve days! This year, we get two Sundays to continue celebrating. Perhaps these days can serve as an invitation for us to slow down, to resist the myriad of demands on our time and attention, and to look for Christ's presence among us. The good news of Christmas is that God is with us – and not just in our joys and triumphs, but also in our sorrows and our weakness. May this be a community where people are welcome in all their complexity, and where we help each other to experience the wonder of God's redeeming love.

#### Opening Hymn # 96

#### Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit; **People There is one hope in God's call to us;**Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Father of all.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. **People** And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant

that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

**now and for ever. Amen.** (Congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)

#### First Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Cathy Ufheil

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

All Thanks be to God

#### Psalm 147:13-21

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*

praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*

he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; \*

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, \*

and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; \*

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*

who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; \*

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

(continued...)

He declares his word to Jacob, \*
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; \*
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

### Second Reading Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 79, Verses 1,2,5

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 1982

#### **Gospel Reading**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John (1:1-18)** 

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon Rev. Chris Micklewright

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on the Scriptures we have read in the light of the Christian tradition, the life of this community, and the needs of the world around us. You don't have to agree with the preacher, and further conversation is always welcome!

#### Presentation and Examination of the Candidate for Baptism

(Candidates, Parents, and Godparents come forward for the baptism)

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsors We present Leona to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the

Christian faith and life?

Sponsors I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Sponsors I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Sponsors I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures

of God?

Sponsors I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Sponsors I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Sponsors I do.

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Sponsors I do.

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Sponsors I do.

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their

life in Christ?

All We will.

#### **The Baptismal Covenant**

Celebrant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own

baptismal covenant.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All 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?

All 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?

All 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?

All I will, with God's help.

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

All I will, with God's help.

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

All 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?

All I will, with God's help.

#### **Prayers for the Candidates** (Led by the Godparents)

Celebrant Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Dina Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Michael Open her heart to your grace and truth.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Amber Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Joshua Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lauryn Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Eric Send her into the world in witness to your love.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Alessandra Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live

in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and

reigns now and forever. Amen.

#### **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

(Candidates, Sponsors, and Priest gather around the baptismal font.)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the

beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection,

from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

#### The Baptism

Celebrant Leona, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Celebrant Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have

bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift

of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Leona, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

Amen.

Celebrant

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified,

proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

#### The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you. (Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)

Celebrant Let us prepare ourselves for prayer with a few moments of silence. (Silence)

Prayers of the People Susan Steele

Celebrant Beginning with a few moments of silence, let us lift up our prayers, using the words of

Mary's song (the Magnificat, found in the Gospel of Luke, 1:46-55). (Silence)

Intercessor My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **People** My spirit rejoices in God our Savior. (Silence)

Intercessor Trusting that God looks with favor on humble servants, we pray for our bishops,

Sarah, Sean, and Daniel; our priest, Chris; our postulant, Rachel; for our congregation,

and for the church universal.

People May we be a blessing to all generations, this day and every day. (Silence)

Intercessor Remembering that the Almighty has done great things for us, we declare God's name

to be holy and good.

People May God show mercy to all who are afraid today, especially immigrants and

refugees. (Silence)

Intercessor Relying on the strength of God, we pray that our leaders may truly work for unity and

justice and peace.

People May God scatter the proud in their conceit, and cast down the mighty from their

thrones. (Silence)

Intercessor Longing to see God lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things, we pray for

all in need in our community, and in the world around us.

**Prayers of the People** 

(Continued...)

People Today, we pray especially for: Alan, William, Betty, Gia, Erica, Patty, Dana, Angel,

Christine, Dakota, Emily, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Christine, Seamus,

Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Laurie, Jerry, Peggy,

Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.

(Long pause for people add their own petitions.)

Intercessor Hoping in God's promise of mercy to our ancestors, we pray for all who have died.

(Long pause for other names...)

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept

the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

Pre-Offertory Hymn # 105

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

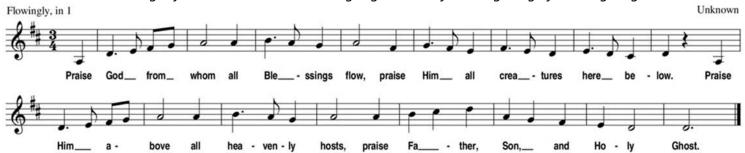
Hymnal 1982

#### **Offertory Sentence**

Celebrant Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to his wisdom. The Lord lifts up the

lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground. - Psalm 147:5-6

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing together the following song of thanksgiving.



#### The Holy Communion – Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 1

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And also with you. Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

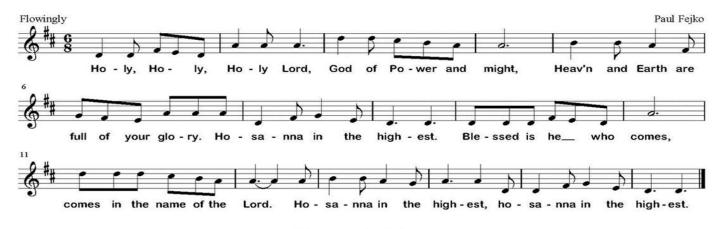
We lift them to the Lord. People

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and

> fountain of mercy, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every

generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:



©2013 tsunami productions

Celebrant

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People

(In a loud voice!) AMEN!

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

All Our Father, who art in heaven, As we forgive those who trespass against us.

hallowed be thy name; And lead us not into temptation;

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; but deliver us from evil.

On earth as it is in heaven. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and

Give us this day our daily bread. the glory,

And forgive us our trespasses, For ever and ever. Amen.

#### **Fraction & Invitation**

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love

him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the priest and the altar guild assistant prepare to distribute the elements to the congregation.

Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community.

#### Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers are available – just hold up one finger. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the wine, you may sip from the cup or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing instead.

Instrumental Hymn # 112

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal 1982



#### **Post Communion Prayer & Blessing**

Please stand with me as we pray together. Celebrant

ΑII God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have

united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

**Amen** 

Rev. Chris Micklewright Blessing

**Announcements** Details about upcoming events can be found at the end of this bulletin and on the flyers in the

rear of the church. Some of the events will be highlighted here.

Go Tell It on the Mountain Closing Hymn # 99

Hymnal 1982

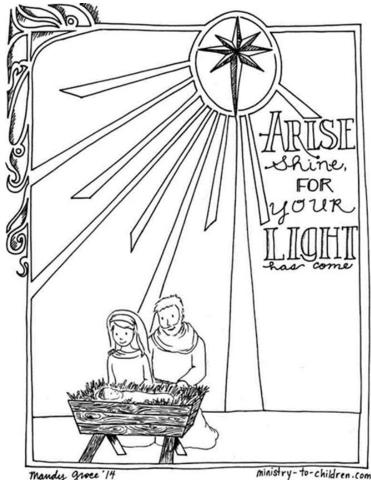
Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. People

**Postlude** Vom Himmel hoch (Orgelbuchlein) J. S. Bach

All are invited to listen to the postlude, and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Join us for 10 Minutes of Prayer on Zoom – Every Monday at 9:00am

Start your week with a time of discussion, prayer, and Scripture.

Meeting ID: 748 3341 8409 Passcode: 8C3fDK

#### **Lunch Packing Outreach – December 28**

Our Missions Committee has been doing great work to care for people in need in our surrounding communities. Please join us after services to pack lunches for Prevention Point (a ministry in Kensington). Future dates are: January 25, February 22, and March 29

Donations of the following items are always welcomed: paper lunch bags, paper sandwich bags, individually wrapped candies & individually bagged chips.

#### Jazz & Joe - We hope to resume on January 22, 2026!

Join us in September for a live performance by the Jazz Sanctuary, a talented group of local musicians.

Musical Meditation – On hiatus Dec. 10 – 31! Special Epiphany version with meal on January 6!

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 6pm (in the church) for a unique service featuring music, silence, conversation, and prayer. Led by our Sextons, musical meditation now features both communal drumming and performances by local musicians.

#### Missions Committee Meetings – Wednesday, January 7 – 9am on Zoom

Our Missions Committee meets each month on the first Wednesday to discuss our current outreach efforts and potential new opportunities. New members and new ideas are always welcome.

(Meeting ID: 897 2826 6283 Passcode: 098374)

Current Missions Committee Projects...

**SACCPhilly Food Cupboard** - You can contribute to the food cupboard at SACCPhilly which is run by Snyder Avenue Congregational Church. Look for the basket and list of most requested supplies in the church foyer. To learn more about SACCPhilly's vibrant ministries, go to <a href="www.saccphilly.org">www.saccphilly.org</a> **Support Ukrainian Refugees** - We have been partnering with a ministry at the Philadelphia Ukrainian Cathedral that supports Ukrainian immigrants and refugees. Help sort clothing and other donations. Contact Cathy Ufheil (newamcat@aol.com) for upcoming dates.

**Meals for St. Gabriel's** – After partnering with St. Luke and the Epiphany to help provide monthly meal to the community of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in North Philadelphia, we are now taking a turn to prepare and serve a meal on our own. Join us in early February – contact Rev. Chris or Jill Duink for details.

**Connecting with POWER Interfaith** – In January we will be meeting with a representative of POWER Interfaith to hear more about their work to advocate for affordable housing throughout our city and how we might support those efforts.

#### **Construction Beginning Soon!**

We're delighted that Gloria Dei Church and the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation have received multiple grants this year, which will support the installation of a new roof on the church, repairs to the bell, a stormwater management system and resurfaced parking lot, and more! Construction on the major projects will likely begin in 2026, and updates will be provided as plans are finalized. To get involved in our ongoing preservation and grant-seeking efforts, talk with Rev. Chris or Amy Grant.

#### With Liberty and Justice for... A Few – January 8 at 7pm

Join us for a lecture from local author Tom Keels, who will share about the major contributions of Philadelphia's African Americans, Jews, and Catholics to the celebration of America's 150th birthday. As we will hear, these groups were treated very differently by the fair's managers and by the city government, reflecting the prejudices of America in the 1920s. Irish Catholics used the Sesqui to trumpet their emergence into the city's power structure. Despite their major financial and organizational contributions to the fair, Jews were reviled and attacked by anti-Semites, starting with Henry Ford and his *Dearborn Independent*. African Americans struggled to make their presence felt despite the widespread racism of the day, only to see their major projects sabotaged by fair executives. All this against a backdrop that included eugenics, anti-immigration agitation, and a planned visit by 100,000 Ku Klux Klan members for their 1926 Klonvokation, all with the blessing of Philadelphia's city fathers. Admission is \$10, which includes a drink ticket for a beverage of your choice (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). Advance registration is required at www.PreserveOldSwedes.org.

#### HGDPC Presents The FIRST British Invasion: Musicians of the British Isles – January 18 at 3pm

In the late 18th century Philadelphia saw a large influx of musicians from London and other areas of the British Isles — many coming at the personal invitation of the theater impresario and composer, Alexander Reingale. Musicians who performed with Joseph Haydn and Johann Peter Salomon, who played at the Drury Lane and Saddler's Wells Theatres, church musicians, and musicians of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens converged on the capital of the new nation, bringing skill, grit and an entrepreneurial spirit that changed the face of Philadelphia's musical life. They founded the Musical Fund Society and cultivated musical culture, laying the groundwork for later organizations, such as The Philadelphia Orchestra. Music of Joseph Haydn, Rayner Taylor, Benjamin Carr, JGC Schetky, Hugh Reinagle, and Ignace Pleyel. Tickets available at www.PreserveOldSwedes.org.

# Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, *Rector* 440-865-1490, rector@old-swedes.org

Christine McBride, *Parish Administrator* 215-389-1513, info@old-swedes.org

Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

# Gloria Dei Vestry

Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden), Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr

# **Online Giving Available**

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website, www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

