EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD

October 12, 2026

"On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear." Isaiah 25:6

Dear Friends in Christ,

Come to the Banquet.

There is something wonderfully simple about an invitation to a meal. *Come. There is a place for you here. Sit with us. Share what has been prepared. Be fed.*

Week after week, we hear an invitation much like this at the heart of our life together. We come to the Lord's Table with open hands, bringing our hopes and worries, our gratitude and need, our joys and burdens. There we are reminded of something the world can easily make us forget: God is a God of abundance. There is enough. There is enough mercy, enough love, enough grace. We receive the bread and the wine, the Body and Blood of Christ, not because we have earned a place at the table, but because God has invited us.

And then we are sent from that table back into the world.

What we receive becomes what we are called to share. Having been fed, we feed others. Having been welcomed, we welcome others. Having known the generosity of God, we learn to live generously ourselves.

This year, our stewardship theme is **Come to the Banquet**, an invitation to reflect on what it means to live as people of God's abundance.

Stewardship begins there—not with a budget or a pledge card, but with God's generosity. Our lives, our gifts, our time, our parish community, and the grace we receive at Christ's Table are gifts entrusted to us. Our response is gratitude: offering ourselves for the sake of one another and the world God loves.

I see that response throughout the life of our parish: in those who serve faithfully, care for a neighbor, welcome someone new, teach our children, visit the sick, feed the hungry, sing, pray, give, and simply show up for one another. These are some of the many ways we participate in the banquet God is preparing.

In a few weeks, we will begin our annual stewardship campaign. Before we do, I invite you to pray. Pay attention to the abundance God has placed in your life. Give thanks for the ways you have been fed through this community. And ask how God may be inviting you to participate more fully in the life and ministry we share.

There is a place for you at the Table. **Come to the Banquet.**

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. Whitney Burton



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