

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 6, 2026

9:30 a.m.

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

# Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

## FIRST TIME HERE?

- **Coffee & Drinks:** Help yourself to a cup in the Café—yes, you can bring it to your pew!
- **Name Tags:** Fill out a temporary tag today, or leave your name with our greeter so we can make you a permanent one.

## DURING WORSHIP

- **For Families:** Children are always invited to create in our kids' areas equipped with weekly activity sheets and crayons.
- **Accessibility:** Hearing assistance units are available on the table at the entrance. We are happy to assist you.
- **Giving:** We no longer pass an offering plate. If we invite you to place gifts in the plate by the sign-in binder or contribute online.

## STAY CONNECTED

- **Livestream:** Catch our live service every Sunday at **9:30 AM** at [stmarksandstjohns.org](http://stmarksandstjohns.org)
- **Social Media:** Find us on Facebook and Instagram - @stmarksandstjohns

## PRELUDE

*Instrumental*

## OPENING SENTENCE

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come."

*(Revelation 4:8)*

**Glory to God for ever and ever.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

LEVAS 189

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,  
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,  
2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,

1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.

Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

### COLLECT FOR 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.**

### COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Grant us, O God, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one Sovereign God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33: 7-11

*A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, the thirty-third chapter*

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Make me go in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;  
give me life in your ways.

**Fulfil your promise to your servant,  
which you make to those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread,  
because your judgements are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## "Celtic Alleluia"

*Sing three times*



## GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done

for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Cindy

PROFESSION OF FAITH

*South Indian - Season of Creation Liturgies*

**We believe in God, who creates all things,  
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,  
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life, who  
baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,  
the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves  
and cares for this world and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who  
came to reconcile and renew this world  
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,  
who moves with God and who moves among  
and with us today.**

**We believe in everlasting life in God.**

**And we believe in the hope that one day  
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.**

## PRAYER INTENTIONS AND MEDITATION

*Please be seated*

*We invite you to share prayer intentions that are close to your heart by lighting a candle and writing your intention on one of our prayer boards.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Prayers from Honoring God in Creation*

Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying,

“Merciful God, bring peace to your planet.”

*SILENCE*

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

**Merciful God, bring peace to your planet.**

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

**Merciful God, bring peace to your planet.**

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health,

fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

**Merciful God, bring peace to your planet.**

For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need [especially \_\_\_\_], and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

**Merciful God, bring peace to your planet.**

For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet.

**Merciful God, bring peace to your planet.**

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

**Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

*Eucharistic Ministers bring the Communion elements and offering forward*

## OFFERTORY

“Joyful, Joyful”

H376

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash - ing sea,

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.

## "Crowded Table"

*by Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby,  
and Lori McKenna - Text adapted for worship*

Refrain: I want a church with a crowded table

And a place at the altar for everyone

Let us take on the world while we're fed and able

And bring us back together when the day is done

Verse: If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed

Plant a little happiness - let the roots run deep

If it's love that we give - then it's love that we reap

If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Praise and gratitude are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption.

Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said:

**“Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying:

**“This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.”**

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine.

Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

**Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in Heaven,**

**hallowed be your Name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,**

**for we share in this one bread.**

# FRACTION ANTHEM

## "From the Dawning"

Verses 1 and 3 only - WLP 748



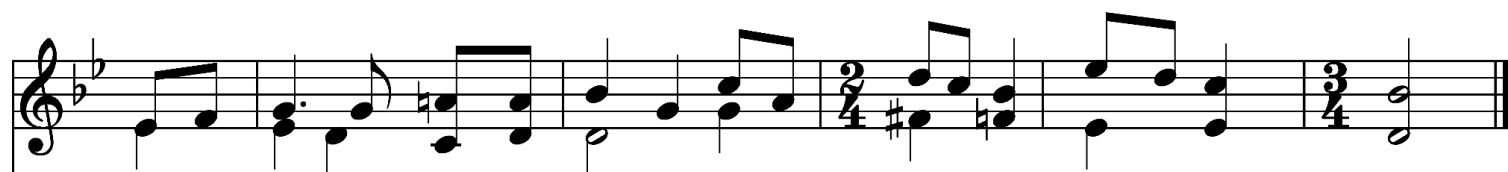
1. From the dawn - ing of cre - a - tion, God was pres - ent in the Word.

3. Hu - man eyes have seen God's glo - ry; hu - man hands have touched God's own.



And the Word was God e - ter - nal, source of all that came to be.

In our like - ness here a - mong us, dwells the Word of God made flesh.



Je - sus is that Word e - ter - nal. Je - sus is the Word of life.

Je - sus is that Word in - car - nate. Je - sus is the Word of life.

The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All are invited to come to the table.*

*Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.*

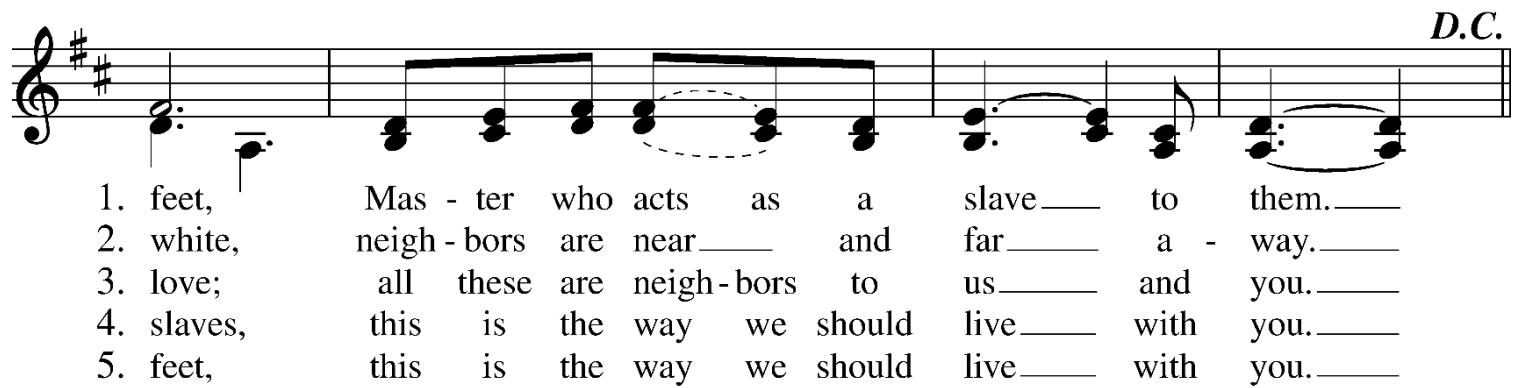
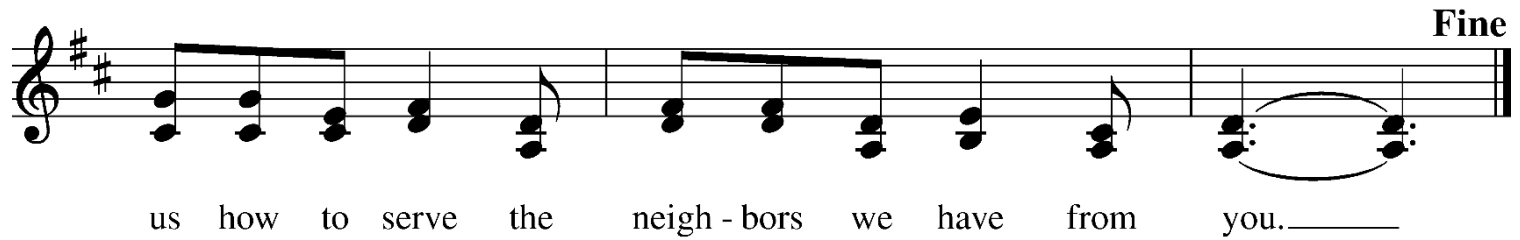
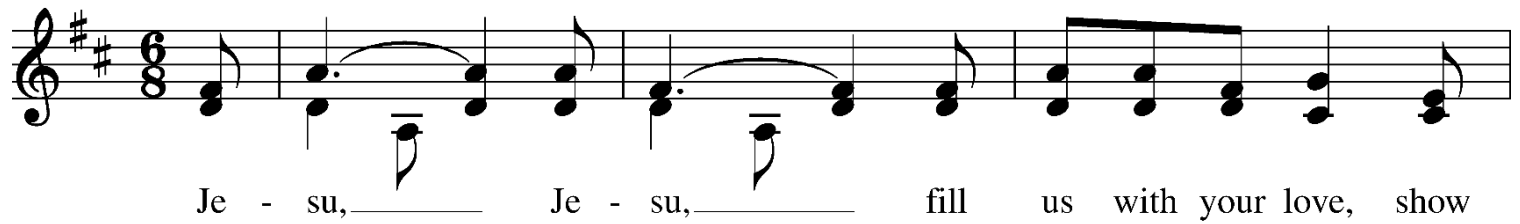
*If you would like to receive a blessing just let us know.*

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

# COMMUNION MUSIC

## "Jesu, Jesu"

LEVAS 74



## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. Lead us to live lives that reflect your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.**

## "THE BLESSING" (Aotearoa)

adapted for SMSJ liturgy - original music and words by  
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

**The Lord bless you and keep you,  
make Her face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord turn Her face toward you and give you peace. (2x)  
Amen, amen, amen.**

**Amen, amen, amen.**

**May Her favor be upon you and a thousand generations  
And your family and your children and their children,  
and their children. (2x)**

**Amen, amen, amen.**

**Amen, amen, amen.**

## FINAL BLESSING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

Grant, O God, in your compassion, that on these anniversaries, these your beloved children may continue to grow in loyalty and love; and come at last to the eternal joys which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

## "The Church's One Foundation"

H1982 525

The musical score is written for two voices, labeled 1 and 2. It consists of four staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:  
2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve God.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**



## Worship Leader Schedule - Lectors

| Date | <b>Crucifer</b><br>(Processional & Recessional) | <b>First Lesson &amp; Psalm</b> | <b>Second Lesson</b> | <b>Greeter &amp; Prayers of the People</b> |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 9/6  | Dave                                            | Deb                             | NA                   | Nancy R.                                   |
| 9/13 | Kevin                                           | Heather                         | Michele              | Theresa                                    |
| 9/20 | Scott                                           | Heather                         | Cath                 | Deb                                        |
| 9/27 | Dave                                            | Helena                          | Bonnie               | Sharon                                     |

## Eucharistic Ministers

| Date | <b>Common Cup</b> | <b>Single Cup Tray</b> | <b>Collect Cups</b> |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 9/6  | Walt              | Paul                   | Kevin               |
| 9/13 | Deb               | Sharon                 | Mike                |
| 9/20 | Bob C.            | Steve F.               | Mary Ellen          |
| 9/27 | Dave              | Terri                  | Michele             |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Sunday, September 6 | Worship & Fellowship**

- ***During Service:*** *Blessing September Anniversaries*
- *Rather than our "First Sunday" coffee hour, join us after worship September 13 for a Community Picnic!*

### **Sunday, September 13 | Community Picnic @ SMSJ**

See flier on the next page.

Sign-up Sheet is in the Narthex

### **Sunday, September 27 | Vestry Meetings Resume**

Monthly Vestry meetings resume on the fourth Sunday of each month. We will meet in the Board Room immediately following worship.

### **IMPORTANT: Food Shelf Financial Assistance Needed**

Our Food Shelf is in need of financial support to keep serving our community. If you are able to make a monetary donation, write "Food Shelf" on your check note. Or go to our website "Give" and then "Give Now."

### **Save the Date! Coming this Fall -**

Sat., 9/19 @ 10 am - Community Volunteer Day (RIT)

Sun., 9/20 - "Abundant Life" Formation Kick Off

Mon., 9/28 @ 4 pm - Safe Church Group Training

Sat., 10/3 @ 10 am - Community Volunteer Day (RIT & SUNY Geneseo)

Sat., 10/10 @ 10 am - Community Volunteer Day

Fri., 11/6 @ 6 pm - Empty Bowls

| Birthdays                                                                                                                        | Anniversaries          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ginnie S. - Sept 2<br>Sharon K. - Sept 9<br>Raffaele G. - Sept 13<br>Susan L. - Sept 14<br>Bob C. - Sept 16<br>Ella W. - Sept 19 | Bob & Dennis - Sept 10 |

*Do you have a birthday or anniversary coming up in September?  
Please let us know [admin@stmarksandstjohns.org](mailto:admin@stmarksandstjohns.org)*

## **SMSJ Weekly Calendar**

September 7 - September 14, 2026

|                |                                                                           |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, 9/7    | Church Office Closed for Labor Day                                        |
| Tuesday, 9/8   | 4:00 pm - Gardening at EDEN 1199<br>5:00 pm - Gardening at EDEN Merchants |
| Wednesday, 9/9 | 9:00 am - Gardening at EDEN Church<br>10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf          |
| Thursday, 9/10 | 11 am - Empty Bowls Meeting @ Melo Coffee                                 |
| Friday, 9/11   |                                                                           |
| Saturday, 9/12 |                                                                           |
| Sunday, 9/13   | 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist<br><i>Followed by Community Picnic</i>           |



# St. Mark's & St. John's Leadership

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Ph.D., **Rector**  
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

The Rev'd Maria Hartz-Clineburg, **Associate Priest**  
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

The Rev'd Patti Blaine, M.A., BCC, **Deacon**  
pblaine@stmarksandstjohns.org

## **Musician**

**AV Producer**  
Rob Thornton

Amelia Yousey

**Deacon Emeritus**  
The Rev'd Mike Finn

## **Vestry Members**

**Co-Wardens**  
Nancy Ramsay ('27)  
Sharon Kowalski ('28)

Bob Caruso (Clerk)

Terri Censak ('29)

Dave Everson ('28)

Heather Gilfoy ('27)

Michele Holmes ('28)

Deb Snyder ('29)

Nancy Willer ('27)

**Diocesan Delegates**  
Bonnie Hallman-Dye  
('28)

Nancy Ramsay ('26)

Ella Webster ('26)

**Treasurer**  
Michele Holmes

**Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative**  
Terri Censak