

Church of the *Ascension*



Connect. Grow. Serve.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024 **10:15 a.m.**

Let us receive and share His



Love

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Prelude

“Wait for the Lord”

J. Berthier

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; keep watch; take heart!

✠ **Processional Hymn**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Hymnal #56

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. (*Refrain*)

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go. (*Refrain*)

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid thou our sad divisions cease
and be thyself our King of Peace. (*Refrain*)

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th century Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, 15th century

The Opening Acclamation

Blessed are you, holy and living God.

You come to your people and set them free. Amen.

The Lighting of the 4th Advent Wreath Candle

The candles of hope, peace and joy are already shining. Today we light the candle of love. Jesus said to them, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” *John 13:34*

Let us pray.

Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in Westminster. *(silence)*

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, those on our prayer list, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. *(silence)*

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. *(silence)*

Hear our prayers and purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Chapel

Children ages 3 – 8 and their Leaders exit to "Children's Chapel," returning at the Peace.

The First Lesson: Genesis 3: 1-15

Chris Nusbaum

After Adam and Eve's rebellion, the Savior is prophesied.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go,

and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

arr. C. Moglebust

Handbell Choir

The Second Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Roberta Gore

A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

✠ **Hymn**

“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

Hymnal #81

1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
As seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

Words: T. Baker & F. Layritz Music: *Es ist ein Ros* from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-15

Liz Lowe

The Promise of Emmanuel – “God With Us”

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God with us”. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

✠ **Hymn**

“The King Shall Come”

1. The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

2. Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
that lights that morning sky.

3. The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.,
Hail! Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.

Words: John Brownlie
Music: Morning Song, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare

The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Olivia Carpenter

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in Bethlehem.

A Reading from the prophet Micah

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Song: "Like A Shepherd" *Adult Ensemble*

by R. Dufford

Chorus: Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms,
holding them carefully close to his heart, leading them home.

1. Say to the cities of Judah;
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Go to the mountaintop, lift your voice:
Jerusalem, here is your God.

2. I myself will shepherd them,
for others have led them astray.
The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds
and pasture them, giving them rest.

The Fifth Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Kevin McIntyre

The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.

A Reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

♠ Hymn

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

J. Berthier

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the sal-vation of our God.

✠ **The Gospel: Luke 1:26-45**

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Song

"Magnificat"

Adult Ensemble

1. My soul will magnify the Lord
I rejoice in God my Savior
In the wonder of His favor
For He has done great things for me
He was mindful of His servant
Every age shall call me blessed
The Hope of Abraham come
In the giving of a Son
For He who promised is mighty
In remembering His mercy

2. My soul will magnify the Lord
For His grace to those who fear Him
Through every generation
The proud He scatters to the wind
As the ruler's strength is broken
And the rich are left with nothing
The humble lifted high
And the hungry satisfied
Our Portion and our Treasure
Our Hope and Help forever

Ending: My soul will magnify the Lord. I rejoice in God my Savior; in the wonder of His favor

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Reflection

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

✠ **The Peace:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name; bring offering and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan this QR code:



Offertory

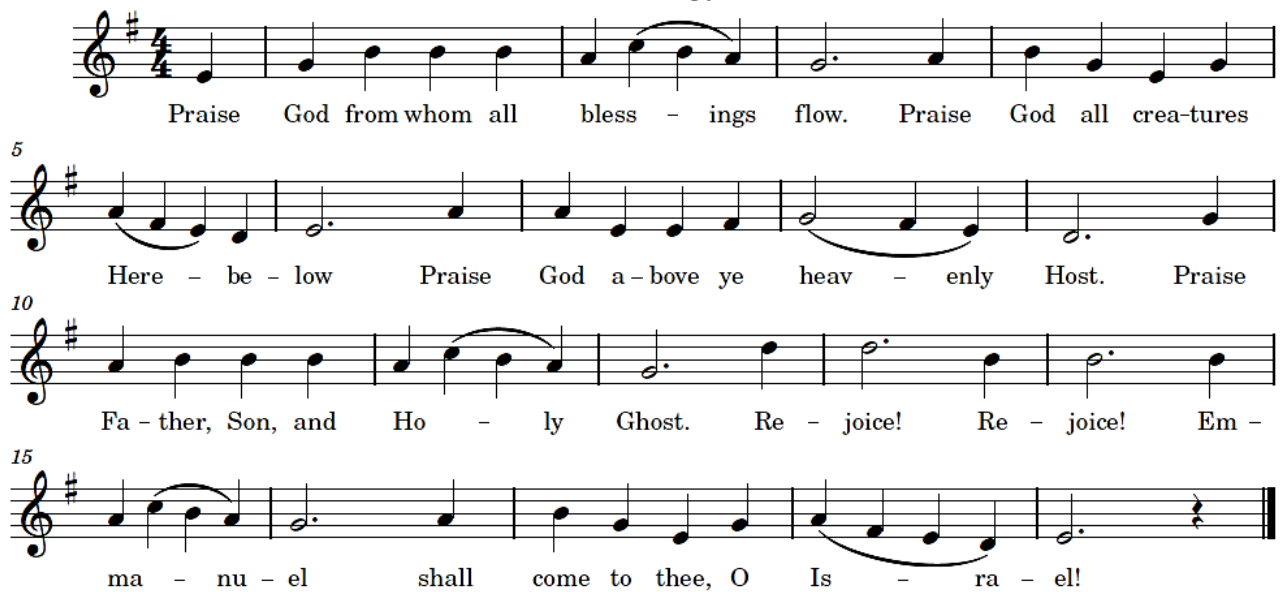
“In the Bleak Midwinter”

by G. Holst, arr. B. Ingram

Handbell Choir

✠ **Presentation Hymn**

“Doxology”



Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures
5 Here - be - low Praise God a - bove ye heav - enly Host. Praise
10 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
15 ma - nu - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where 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

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Hymnal #S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,
 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and
 Bless - ed is
 earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est

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:

Christ has di - ed Christ - is ri - sen Christ will come a - gain

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.



The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:
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 Bread

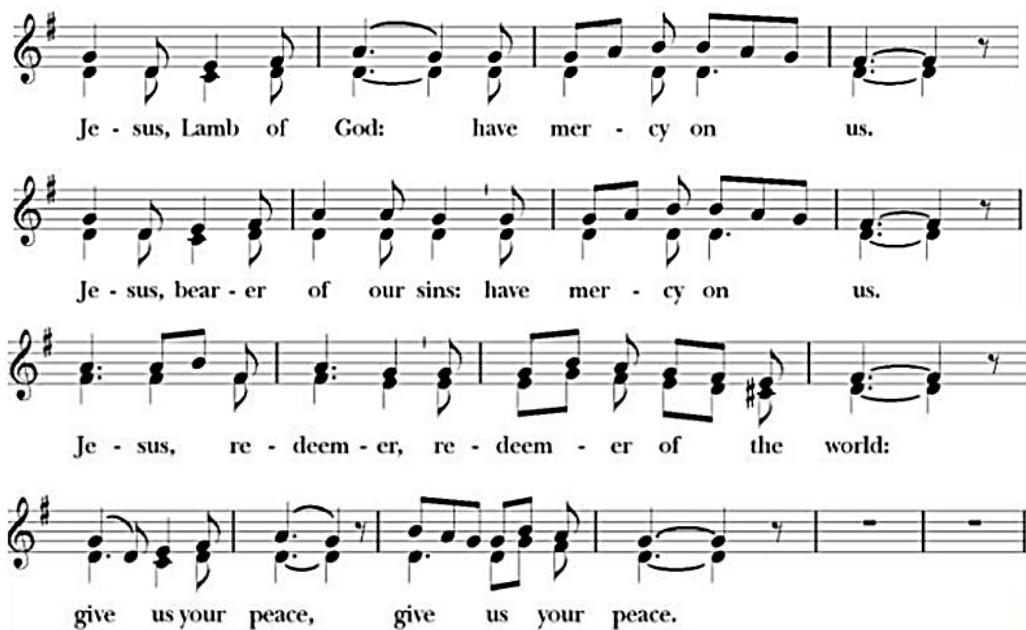
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

“Jesus, Lamb of God”

Hymnal #S164

Deutsche Messe: F. P. Schubert



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. **Amen.**

The Communion

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion in front of the altar. Gluten-free communion wafers are available on demand. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. To receive the wine, you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharist minister on both sides of the priest.

Communion Hymns

“What Child Is This”

Hymnal #115

1. What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Chorus:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William Chatterton Dix

Music: Greensleeves

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Hymnal #324

Picardy



1 Let all mortal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of Light de -
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may va - nish
“Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.
as the dark - ness clears a - way.
Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

✠ Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. 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.

Closing Hymn

“People Look East”



1. Peo - ple, look east! The time is near of the crown - ing
2. Fur - rows be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3. Stars, keep your watch! When night is dim, one more light the
4. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plan - ted there. Give up your strength the seed to nou - rish,
bowl to brim, shi - ning be - yond the fros - ty weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look east and
that in course the flow'r may flou - rish. Peo - ple, look east and
bright as sun and moon to - ge - ther. Peo - ple, look east and
with the word the Lord is com - ing! Peo - ple, look east and



sing to - day; Love, the Guest is on the way.
sing to - day; Love, the Rose is on the way.
sing to - day; Love, the Star is on the way.
sing to - day; Love, the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon
Music: Traditional French Carol, arr. Eric Wyse, 2012.

The Blessing:

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ Recessional: “In Dulci Jubilo” *Dr. David Kreider* arr. Dale Wood

Dr. David Kreider has prepared a special organ piece for today's Lessons & Carols service.

Please remain seated and enjoy this selection.

✦ The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

| Worship Assistants | December 22 | December 29 |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Organists | Mary Butler, Dr. David Kreider | Mary Butler |
| Musicians | Adult Ensemble, Handbell Choir | Adult Ensemble |
| Ushers | Beatrice Howe, David Horn | Beatrice Howe, <i>1 needed</i> |
| Acolyte | Jennie Grabill | Ellen Anderson |
| Lector(s) | Roberta Gore, Liz Lowe, Olivia Carpenter, Kevin McIntyre, Chris Nusbaum | Buck Lyon-Vaiden |
| Chalicians | Helen Lang, Bobbie Gooding, Kim Tompkins, Jim Fariss | Helen Lang, Kim Tompkins, Jim Fariss, <i>1 needed</i> |
| Worship Slides | Jill Horn | Reagan Dunn |
| Audio Visual | Nick Hoff | Travis Collins |

December Altar Guild: Team 4

Kim Tompkins Charlie Aler Beverly Baker Jenny Beeker Helen Lang

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Mark and Emelia Howe, in celebration of daughter, Beatrice’s 14th birthday on Christmas Day.

The Bread and Wine

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Frank and Cheryl Vecera, in celebration of son, Robert’s birthday on December 20, and Cheryl’s birthday on December 28.

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Tom and Deborah Rio, in thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren.

Attendance - December 15:

8:00 am - 28 10:15 am In-person - 84 YouTube - 7 Facebook - 4 **Total: 123**

Readings for Next Sunday: The First Sunday after Christmas - C

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

We welcome you, your family and friends to celebrate Christmas at one of our Christmas worship services: **DECEMBER 24 AT 4:00 PM (HOLY CROSS HALL) - DECEMBER 24 AT 8:00 PM (STONE CHURCH)**
DECEMBER 25 AT 10:15 AM (STONE CHURCH)