

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Music with the Stars

Worship Aid for December 22nd, 2024 at 10:15 am



Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.

Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people. We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.

You may reach the office at Nativity@NativityMN.org or 952-435-8687

This time in December can be frenetic with shopping, baking, parties, and more. I invite you to take time to practice centering yourself as you move through the Advent Season. Few practices bring us a sense of peace and awe than the stillness of the night sky. Star gazing can help us keep a balanced sense of perspective; one that is more peaceful and hopeful. In truth, this is the same sky into which the shepherds looked, and the wise men gazed. It is the sky which heralds signs of importance easily missed should you fail to look up.

Our new paraments for the Season of Advent have been designed and created by our Liturgical Environment Team. Blue is the color of solemn joy and of hope. In the blue of the night sky stars shine. Stars are lights, shining in the darkness, they are the perfect symbol of Christ, the Light of the world, the Bright Morning Star promised to a world in struggle. What's more, stars give direction, they show the way - they lead us where we need to go. "Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. I know many people feel like we are entering a dark time. For the benefit of us all, I hope that is not the case. But, America, if it is, let us fill the sky with a light of a billion bright stars." – Kamala Harris

Advent is both looking backward to the birth of the Christ Child, and it is searching ahead to the Second Coming of the son of God. It is a season for us to experience the spiritual practice of waiting. I leave you with portions of a poem, "Star" written by Ann Weems, from her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

What I'd really like to give you is a star...
Brilliance in a package,
Something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
Or the pocket of your being,
Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
Something of wonderment, something for pondering,
Something that would remind you of what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light in the darkness of the world...

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership
The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector
The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Chloe Hrbacek, Parish Office Coordinator
Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister
Charlotte McLendon, Organist

Tamera Loerzel, Senior Warden
Andrea Thermos, Junior Warden
Steve Grier, Treasurer

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Liturgical Ministers
Lector: Tamera Loerzel
Prayer Leader: Christin Eaton
Eucharistic Minister: Sue McComber & Ruth Erickson
Ushers:
Announcements: Theresa May
Tech: Nate Gooden
Christmas Eve

Lector	Tamera Loerzel
Prayer Leader	
Eucharistic Minister	Phyllis Rowley
Usher (x2)	
Announcements	Tamera Loerzel
Tech	Paul Brusco

INTROIT

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that
I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider: Blessed are you, O Lord Our God. As we light this wreath, may its ever increasing brightness be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for his humble birth in a manger and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Four candles are lit.

All: Gracious and Loving God, draw near to us as the light grows and the day of God's birth comes near. Let us, like Mary, proclaim the greatness of the Lord.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding (Hymnal 59)

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

All: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider: 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.

All: **Amen.**

Trisagion

(Hymnal S102)

Sing three times

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

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.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

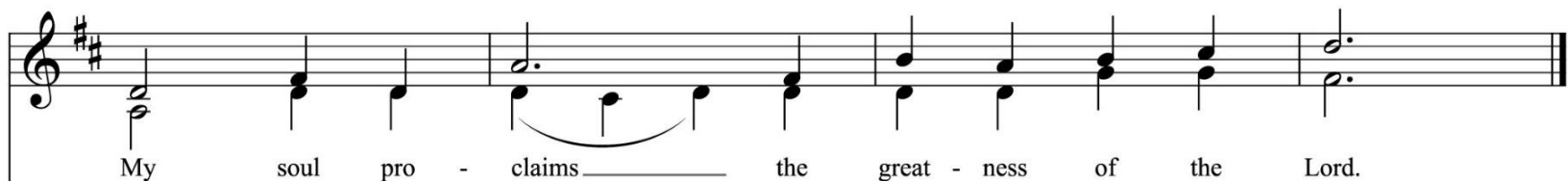
Micah 5:2-5a

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 15, *Luke 1:46-55*

Antiphon:



My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord.

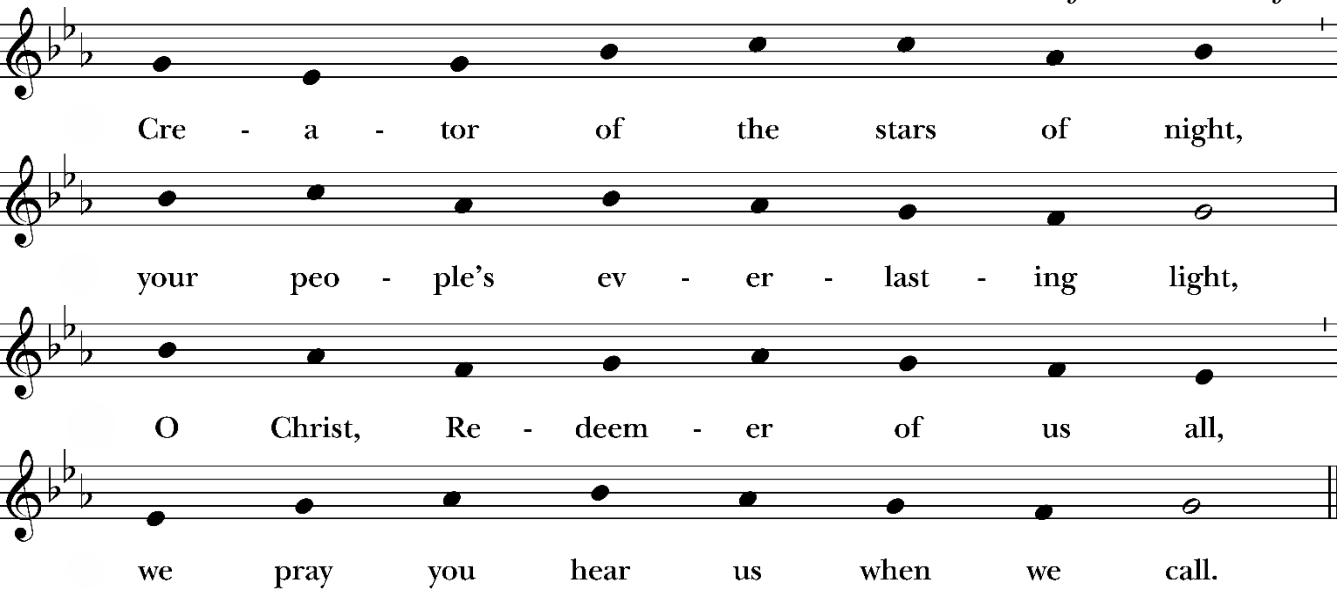
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every gene-ration.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their con-ceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Creator of the Stars of Night (Hymnal 60)



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 we pray you hear us when we call.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel is read.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE TIME

All children and youth are invited to go with a Children & Youth ministry volunteer during the sermon and prayers.

SERMON

The Rev. Dana Fath Strande

Sung Refrain: All that I am sings of the God who brings new life to birth in me.
My spirit soars on the wings of my Lord.

Verse 1: My soul gives glory to the Lord, rejoicing in my saving God,
Who looks upon me in my state, and all the world will call me blest;
For God works marvels in my sight, and holy, holy is God's name. **Refrain**

Verse 2: God's mercy is from age to age, on those,
who follow in fear; whose arm is power and strength and scatters all the proud
of heart; who casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises up the lowly ones. **Refrain**

Verse 3: God fills the starving with good things,
the rich are left with empty hands;
protecting all the faithful ones, rememb'ring Israel with mercy;
the promise known to those before and to their children for ever. **Refrain**

NICENE CREED

Deacon: Let us declare our faith in God.

Deacon and All:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son,
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Wait for The Lord'. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are the vocal line, with a treble clef and a bass clef respectively. The bottom two staves are the piano accompaniment, also with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!' The score includes various musical notations such as chords, notes, rests, and a repeat sign at the end.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Deacon: We seek our mighty God in the most unlikely places, in a cold stable, in an empty tomb. May God hear these prayers, which come from the unlikely corners of our lives.

Leader: We pray that the people on this earth may know the steadfastness of God's mercy and love. We pray for the Church of the Province of Uganda, for our own Nativity Episcopal Church in Burnsville. May God bless our Nativity community in all its ministries, especially in Building Our Future. May we watch and wait for the fulfilling of God's holy will for us. For all this, we shall in this season

All (sung): **Wait for the Lord...**

Leader: May God inspire our leaders to work with integrity, that they may rule all people righteously and with justice. We pray to care for the earth given to us and to value all living things. May God help us to live in harmony with creation and with one another. For all this, we shall in this season:

All: **Wait for the Lord...**

Leader: We praise God and offer our thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, our warmth and comfort, the people near and far whom we have been given to love, and for our very lives that teach us of God's mercy. May we find the wisdom to see and be glad of God's plan for us. For all this, we shall in this season:

All: **Wait for the Lord...**

Leader: We pray for all in need, those frail in mind or body, those in poverty, sadness, loneliness, anxiety, and those in fear of any harm. We bless them and pray that God will give them comfort and healing. We pray especially for ... Are there others?

The people may add their own petitions.

Leader: For all this, we shall in this season:

All: Wait for the Lord...

Leader: We pray for those whose life is ending. We remember before the Lord all who have died and pray that they may find peace in God's eternal rest. We name...are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: In faith that we will all meet in the Kingdom of God, we shall in this season:

All: Wait for the Lord...

Deacon: Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to see, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our Neighbor.

All: Most merciful God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

Have mercy on us and forgive us;

That we may delight in your will,

And walk in your ways,

To the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Prepare for Emmanuel,” by Patrick Liebergen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: May God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: God of all power, Source and sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All: **Glory to you forever and ever.**

Presider: At your command, all things came to be: shining lights and enfolding dark: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All: **By your will, they were created and have your being.**

Presider: From the primal elements, you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you and betrayed your trust: and we turned against one another.

All: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages, you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your law, opening us for the way of freedom and peace.

All: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Presider: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy

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

Presider: On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given up for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you; This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving.

All: **We celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.**

Presider: Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Presider: Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Presider: God of our ancestors; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this table for solace only and not for strength, for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayer and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory and worship, from generation to generation.

All: **AMEN.**

Presider: And now, as our Savior, Christ, has taught us, we are bold to say;

Presider and All:

**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,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

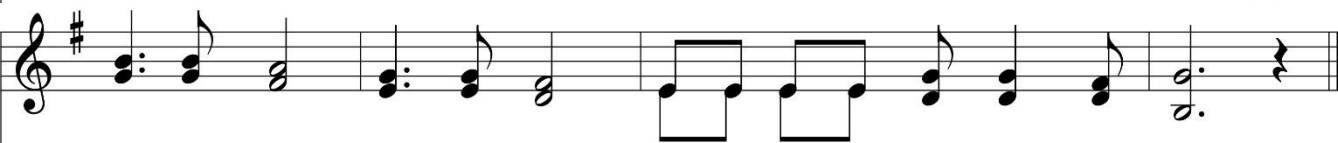
All: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Eat This Bread



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

INVITATION

Presider: So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

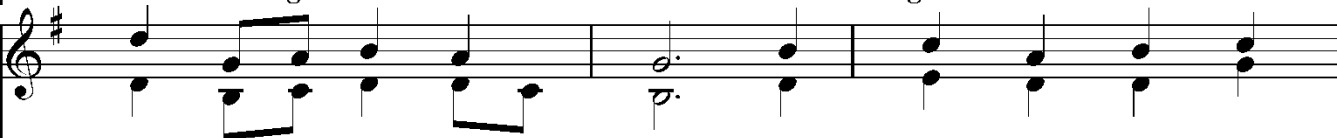
Presider: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with Thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (Hymnal 73)



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and



1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy



1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

BELL ANTHEM

"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime," arr. Cathy Moglebust

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and All:

Eternal God, We thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hands; may we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast when many will come from East and West, from North and South to greet the Lord of all; we ask this in his name. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the King Whose Coming (Hymnal 74)

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the
have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
bear it so he can make us free!

BLESSING

Presider: May the God who brings heaven close to the earth give truth to our judgment and flame to our longing that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love: and the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you today and remain forever more.

All: **Amen**

SUNG BENEDICTION

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You,” Peter Lutkin

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Our worship has ended, our service now begins. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Mary, Did You Know?” arr. Joel Raney (Brian Handeland, flute)

TODAY AT NATIVITY

Music with the Stars

Special Musical Service – Sunday, Dec. 22nd

Pageant Rehearsal

11:30 – Sunday, Dec. 22nd

Hanging of the Greens

11:15am – Sunday Dec. 22nd

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

Bible Study

10:30am – Mondays

Handbell & Choir

5 & 6pm – Tuesdays

Adult Forum

9am – Sundays, See you in 2025!

UPCOMING

Christmas Service Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 4pm | Family Service with Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 10:15am | Service with Music
In-person only

Sunday, Dec. 29th, 10:15am | Slipper, Robe, and Christmas Carols Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 5th, 10:15am | Epiphany Celebration

