



The Holy Eucharist: Enriching Our Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 • 8 a.m.

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

This type of note, offering directions about the service, is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word rubrica (red)—referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

The Word of God

THE ENTRANCE RITE

WELCOME

We acknowledge that our worship is taking place in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The People standing as able, the Presider says

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

This prayer was an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Episcopal worship to this day.

The Presider may say

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.**

OPENING ANTHEM

The following is said, all standing as able

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

Presider God be with you.
People **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. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The People are seated for the lessons.

THE FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The People remain seated.

THE RESPONSE

The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity’s relationship with God and one another.

Reader Our response to the first reading is a portion of Psalm 80 found in the service leaflet. Please pray it with me.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.
³Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
⁴O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

The people sit.

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,
 “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.
⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
 (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt
 offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do
 your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been
 sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

The People stand as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus’ words and actions.

<i>Deacon</i>	The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.
<i>People</i>	Glory to you, Lord Christ.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among

women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Deacon	The Gospel of our Savior.
People	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life

The People stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin “credo” for “I believe.” First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: the Holy Trinity.

**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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church—the Body of Christ.

The People stand, as able, or sit or kneel.

Intercessor The Prayers of the People are guided by Form 4 found on page 388 of the Book of Common Prayer and in the service leaflet. Please pray them with me.

One of Peace, we pray to you for the Church and for the world.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of Uganda. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the community of Stevensville and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, with Richard Tardiff as Interim Rector. We also pray for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; for Marty Stebbins, our Bishop; and for our priests, deacons, and lay leaders at Holy Spirit and across the Diocese.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

God of love and mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray that all souls would come to proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

God of love and mercy

Hear our prayer.

In the light of your countenance, give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may steward and use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

God of love and mercy

Hear our prayer.

Stir in us a greater curiosity for and awareness of our neighbors. Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

God of love and mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Today we pray especially for:

Frank, Anthony, and Benjamin Horton	Marleigh Flanigan	Dan
Bert and Nora Horton	Jeff McElwain	Jeanne
Joan Chaussee	Sue Neff	Jim
Betty Rice	Tanya Lodahl	Beth
Laura Lambert and her family	Laura and Cannon	Graham
Ken and Nancy Hailey	Malcolm Smith	Shannon
Jodie Ulrigg and family	Nancy Callen	Peter
Jari Davis	Rene Thorton	Sam
Lew and Robin Mueller	Bob Simons	Charlie
Dolores Criswell	Dan and Sandi	Moe
Ardice Nicholson	Ethen	Genie
Lynn and Mark	Peg	Steve
Helen Matveyeff	Jacob	Sandy
Judy Anderson and family	Susan Wallens	Carrie
Willie and Richard Hoffer	Ricardo and Meri	
Fr. Daniel Velez-Rivera and the congregation of St. Gabriel's Church in Leesburg, Virginia		

And for those who are sick, in prison, oppressed, addicted, suicidal, fearful, or without enough food, shelter, or sense of community.

Lord, you crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Through the lens of Advent, help us to welcome you in newcomers, migrants and refugees. Help us to be good stewards and peacemakers, who live as your children. May we come to live in human solidarity and in hope. As we grow from our partnership with the Rio Grande Borderland Ministries, give us courage to open the door to our neighbors and grace to build a society of justice.

There are other people and oppressions on our hearts, Lord, and we lift those to you now.

The People may add their own petitions

Silence

God of love and mercy

Hear our prayer.

God of hope, we commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially this morning for JoAnn Gray and for any others we remember to you now, silently or aloud.

The People may add their own petitions

Silence

God of love and mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Presider stands and says

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,

in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,

the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us

through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love

and serve only your will. Amen.

The Presider stands and says

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

THE PEACE

All stand as able. The Presider says to the people

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Communion

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

All are invited to make a gift to support Holy Spirit's ministry of sharing God's love with our community and the world by texting HOLYSPIRITGIVE to (833) 714-3270 or by visiting <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/>. You may also put your gift in the offering plate or by scanning the QR code below to give to the General Fund:



The altar is prepared for Holy Communion

DOXOLOGY

All say in unison as the Offering is received and blessed

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing as able.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels

in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,

lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.

Celebrant and People

**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.

The People stand or kneel as able.

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death

and to reveal the riches of your grace,

you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,

that she might conceive and bear a son,

Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,

healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself

yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross

the sacrifice of his life,

and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,

Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, 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.

Again, he gave thanks to you,

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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,

and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,

who was and is and is to come,

we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,

and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts

that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth

and make us your new creation,

the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,

with [_____ and] all your saints,

from every tribe and language and people and nation,

to feast at the banquet prepared

from the foundation of the world.

The Great Amen is when the congregation with a unified great voice concurs with all that the presider has prayed. It is the only “Amen” in all capitals found in the Book of Common Prayer, signifying the greatness of the congregation’s response.

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. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

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

People and Celebrant

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept. Then may be said*

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and respond to receiving Communion by saying "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available, and you may drink from the common cup or dip your wafer in the intinction cup. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

PRAYER FOR SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

When this prayer is needed, the Celebrant and People say

In the name of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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.

THE BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words

Let us go forth with Advent anticipation and the love of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**



PRAYERS FOR TODAY are in loving memory of my friend, JoAnn Gray, by Anne Cohen.

Participants in the Service

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>The Rev. Thomas Lee</i>
<i>Presider, Preacher and Deacon</i>	<i>The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis</i>
<i>Lector/Lay Eucharistic Minister</i>	<i>Sue LaRose</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Elaine Brown, Lori Cordis, Beverly Maas</i>

GROW WITH US

Everything we do at Holy Spirit, including today's in-person and online services, is made possible because of people like you. We rely on your donations to make our mission and ministry possible. In these challenging times, your support is needed more than ever. If this service has been meaningful for you, we encourage you to give as you're able to help Holy Spirit continue to serve our community and the greater world. Visit <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/> or give on our church app or text **HOLYSPIRITGIVE** to (833) 714-3270 to give on your smartphone. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

WE WELCOME THOSE NEW TO OUR WORSHIP!

Newcomers and guests are always welcome at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. Our service today uses the service leaflet, and a service leaflet is also available online. The QR code to access the bulletin page of the website is available in the pews. Just scan it with the camera on your phone. We hope you will take a moment to complete the white Visitor's Card found in the pew and place it in the offertory plate as it passes.

DEACON DORCIE'S REMAINING TIME OF RENEWAL

This summer, I took the first eight weeks of the 12-week time of renewal (sabbatical) expected of deacons after each five years of ordination. That time brought such "let's get real" and memory-making family time, a study of the book of Acts, different prayer and worship rhythms, and some good soul peace and clarity. I am now looking forward to the final four weeks of my time of renewal, which will take me away from service at Holy Spirit and community ministries from December 28 through January 24. I appreciate your prayers and look forward to rejoining you in Epiphany.

Gratefully,

The Ven. Dorcie Kafka Dvarishkis

WRAPPING UP OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We're looking for parishioners who've just found their annual gift cards deep in their stack of mail. Yes, you! We gladly welcome your annual gift, and hope you'll take the next step to send in your commitment of support for our Holy Spirit community. Annual gift cards are available in church in the pews or at the office. Or call 406-542-2167 for more information. Thank you to everyone who has made an annual gift for 2025! Our Stewardship campaign wraps up soon.

As of Sunday, December 15, 134 households have gifted Holy Spirit \$374,507.96 or 91% of our total goal of \$413,700.00. Won't you join them with your support?

2024 ANNUAL GIFT PAYMENTS

In order for your annual gift payments to appear on your 2024 statement, your annual gift payments must be received or postmarked by December 31. Payments received in January not postmarked by December 31, 2024, will be posted to your 2025 annual gift statement, even if the check is dated 2024.

DON'T FORGET that you can make your year-end payments and set up your annual gift for next year on our giving platform **PUSHPAY**. Giving is easy and secure, and you have three different ways to give:

1. On our website: www.holyspiritmissoula.org on the "Give" page
2. On our app: text **HOLYSPIRITAPP** to **(833) 714-3270**
3. On your phone: text **HOLYSPIRITGIVE** to **(833) 714-3270**

JOIN US IN PERSON TONIGHT FOR LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in the church. The choir and organ will be in splendid voice, and the beautiful carols and anthems will be the perfect introduction to the last days before Christmas. The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which began in England in the early 1900s, is now a part of Anglican and Episcopal worship throughout the world. The service is made up of lessons alternating with the singing of congregational and choral music. Beginning with the story of Adam and Eve, the lessons trace the prophecies of the Nativity and end with the beautiful passage from John: "In the Beginning was the Word...."

I invite all of you to join the choir on the 22nd, and in the words of the beautiful opening prayer,
*to hear again the message of the
angels, and in heart and mind to
go even unto Bethlehem and see
this thing which is come to pass...*

This service will not be live-streamed or recorded but is in-person only. We hope to see you there!

– Dr. Nancy Cooper, Organist and Choir Director

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Worship Services for Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

- **4:00 p.m.** Early Service with **all** ages in mind: A telling of the Christmas Story, simple familiar Carols, and Holy Eucharist. **This service will not be livestreamed.**
- **10:00 p.m.** Traditional Choral Eucharist in the church with the singing of the choir and full congregational hymns. **This service will be livestreamed.**

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

- **No services**

OUR THANKS TO THE DECORATING CREW!

Rev. Terri organized a great crew of volunteers to put up the Christmas trees and decorations in the church yesterday morning. Our thanks to them for all their hard work!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The church office will close at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 24. The office will also be closed all day on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26. We will be back in the office on Friday, December 27.

A NEW BOOK STUDY BEGINS IN JANUARY

***The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory* by Tim Alberta**

Join us for a thought-provoking book-study on Tim Alberta's *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory*. We've adjusted the meeting time to accommodate those who didn't want to drive at night in the winter. So, we will now meet on four Thursday mornings in January (January 9, 16, 23 and 30) from 10:30 am to noon at Holy Spirit. Discover the troubling truths about the American evangelical movement and discuss with us! Order your copy today and contact Carla (406-203-7177) or Lucia (406-544-7134) if you plan to attend. Let's dive into this insightful read together!

WE'RE UPDATING OUR PRAYER LIST

An important part of our worship at Holy Spirit is the opportunity to pray by name for people in need. We pray for members of our congregation and for many others for whom our prayers are requested. **On January 5, we will make a fresh start with the Prayer List included in the Sunday Prayers of the People.** In order to keep our prayers current and meaningful, we are asking for your help. If there is someone whose name you would like to have on the list, please give that information to Judy Parock (office@holyspiritmissoula.org). The renewed list will include only the names which have been sent to us and the names of our shut-in parishioners. We will renew the list again in six months' time. People may remain on the Prayer List for as long as necessary because we know and understand that many needs are ongoing. However, when someone is ready to be removed from the list, we ask that you let us know. Thank you for your help and for your understanding.

HELP STUDENTS IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

If you would like to help students in Gaza and the West Bank in a tangible way, become an English conversation partner through An-Najah University Language Resource Center in Nablus, West Bank. The director, Louha Samaaneh, advertised a program to students in Gaza (whose universities have all been destroyed) and over 700 students responded. Scott Powell, the American coordinator, needs a few more co-hosts or "coaches" to spend 60-90 minutes a week on Zoom starting in early January. Two hosts will meet with 8-10 students and practice conversational English using topics that are chosen by hosts and students alike. The semester will run for 8 weeks, starting in early January. Groups will meet on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Contact Scott directly at stpowell19@gmail.com 630-408-4978 or talk to Valerie Hess, who has participated with this program in the past.

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