



The Holy Eucharist – Eucharistic Prayer B

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 • 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

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

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 • TRISAGION: HOLY GOD

The Gloria, or some other song of praise, centers the service on the God we gather to praise in our worship.

The following is said, all standing (repeat three times).

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

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 The Lord 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: Isaiah 7:10-16

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

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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, 16-18

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.
¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
 the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you; *
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
¹⁸Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

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 Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

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.

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

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

The People are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier

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, sit, or kneel as they are able.

Intercessor The Prayers of the People are guided by Form 2, found on page 385 of the Book of Common Prayer and in the service leaflet. Please pray them with me.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;

For Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop, and for Marty Stebbins our Bishop, and for our Holy Spirit clergy and lay leaders;

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for the Anglican Church of Burundi; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for the community of Hamilton and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, with Gretchen Strohmaier as Rector and Paul Nelson and Alana Cruse as deacons;

For this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
For the leaders and people in warring countries, and for those serving and suffering in the face of natural and human-influenced distress and disasters.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
For those who live with chronic illness, are struggling with addiction, or are in recovery.
For our neighbors seeking safe shelter, food enough, community, and opportunities to be heard.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
For Holy Spirit to be a courageous and inviting community for seekers.
Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, as we pray today especially for Arch Hosier.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those on our prayer list who we lift to you now.

Let us pray silently for this group, and we invite you to take your leaflet home so you can pray for them individually during the week.

Silence

Bill B.	Marleigh Flanigan	Dan
Bert and Nora Horton	Jennifer, Mark and Jacob	Sullivan
Joan Chaussee	Bob Simons	Graham
Betty Rice	Robert Hadlow	Peg
Dolores Criswell	Laura and Cannon	Janel
Lew and Robin Mueller	Linda T.	Paula
Nancy Callen	Christina Errebo	Tim
Kathy Adams	Barbara Behan	Ray
Paula and family	Dan	Shannon
Michael Ayers and family	Jeanne	Greg
Family and friends of the Ruybalid family	Jone and Jesse	Mary
Doug Harris and family	Peter and Malcolm Smith	Moe
Tom Ard	Ann Rennie	Sam
Diana Plyley		Wanda

The staff and patients of Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City
Our immigrant and refugee neighbors
All who need shelter beyond what the Poverello and Meadlowlark can offer

I ask your thanksgiving for:

- What we are learning as we share in the work of the Missoula Food Bank & Community Center
- The organizations who have joined us for our Alms Sundays throughout the year

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**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.**

The Priest stands and says

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand as able. The Presider says to the People.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEARCH COMMITTEE PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

When this prayer is needed, the Celebrant and People say

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly; grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what You would have us to do, that the Spirit of Wisdom may save us from false choices, and that in Your light we may see light, and in Your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [] and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

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

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

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS FOR TODAY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband Arch Hosier, by Barbara Hosier.



Participants in the Service

<i>Presider, Preacher and Celebrant</i>	<i>The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier</i>
<i>Lector/Lay Eucharistic Minister</i>	<i>Jody Thomasson</i>
<i>Usher</i>	<i>Greg Scarf</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Jody Thomasson</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 blue Visitor's Card found in the pew and place it in the offertory plate as it passes.

STEWARDSHIP: ALMOST THERE!

We are filled with gratitude for the incredible generosity of our parish family. As of Sunday, December 14, 146 households have given \$417,831.50 — that's 99% of our \$420,000 goal! With just a little more support, we'll cross the finish line together. If you haven't yet made your annual gift, now is the perfect time to join in. Gift cards are available in the pews, or you can make your gift online at <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/annual-gift/>. Thank you for helping us strengthen our Holy Spirit community!

2025 ANNUAL GIFT PAYMENTS

In order for your **ANNUAL GIFT PAYMENTS** to appear on your 2025 statement, your annual gift payments must be received or postmarked by December 31. Payments received in January not postmarked by December 31, 2025 will be posted to your 2026 annual gift statement, even if the check is dated 2025. Please remember that our mail goes to Spokane for processing now, which adds an additional day to the mail time.

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**

FESTIVAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 21 at 7 p.m. In-person only

The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place this evening 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 tonight, 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...*

A reception will follow in the parish hall, hosted by the Wholly Fun Committee.

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

Dr. Nancy Cooper, Director of Music

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Worship Services for Wednesday, 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.**
- **6:30 p.m.** Our Outdoor Service returns this year! Join us under the stars for a joyful, all-ages celebration filled with prayer, carol singing, and the glow of fire pits to warm our bodies and spirits. We'll end the evening with a candlelit singing of *Silent Night*—a beloved tradition that lifts hearts and brings peace. Please note: this service does not include Eucharist. Please do **dress warmly!**

- **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, Thursday, December 25th

- **No services**

DECK THE HALLS — DONE!


Thanks to Rev. Terri and her wonderful team of decorators, our church is now sparkling with Christmas trees and festive beauty. Their energy and creativity have truly “trimmed” the season with joy. We appreciate each of them for making our sanctuary shine! Our thanks to David and Nancy Tyrell for providing this year’s Christmas trees.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The church office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, December 24. The office will also be closed all day on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26. We will be back in the office on Monday, December 29.

SOCK, HAT, SCARF & GLOVE DRIVE

Hang a stocking, then donate warm socks! For the 10th year, Holy Spirit is collecting socks, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for our houseless neighbors served by the Poverello Center and HOT Team.

 **January 4–18, 2026**

📍 Drop donations in the red-and-white striped box in the parish hall or in the bin outside the church office.

Please give handknit, store-bought, or gently used items. **Socks must be wool or synthetic—NO cotton.** The need is especially great this winter. Thank you for helping keep our neighbors warm!

For extra bins at home or work, contact lucia.solowork@gmail.com.

A NEW POST IS UP ON OUR BLOG

Confessions of a 'Church Tourist'

Have you ever found yourself drawn to stop inside a church while traveling, just to see what stories its walls might tell? In her latest blog post, *Confessions of a 'Church Tourist'*, Molly Bowler shares the joy of discovering sacred spaces across the world — from Westminster Abbey to a hidden gem in Lyon — and reflects on the peace and beauty found in these unexpected encounters. Come along for the journey and see why opening the next church door is always worth it. You can read the blog post here:

<http://holyspiritmissoula.org/soundings/confessions-of-a-church-tourist/>.

THE GIFT THAT IS THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Join me Tuesday, January 13 and 20, 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m. as we delve into the practicalities of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP): the treasure trove it is to us and the many ways it can be used beyond Sunday worship time. Whether you are a cradle Episcopalian or new to the word Episcopal, come engage the BCP with me! ~Rev. Terri

JOIN OUR WOMEN’S GROUP: LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Looking for a welcoming space to grow in your faith alongside other women? Join our **Practicalities of Faith** group, where meaningful conversation and genuine community await you. All women are invited—bring a friend and experience support and inspiration together.

The group, led by Julie Benson, will meet on the following dates in the Guild Room from 1-2:30 p.m.:

January 5, 14, and 29

February 11 and 18

March 11 and 25

Please come as you are available! Registration is not required.

BOOK STUDY: *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*

Starting January 24, Sara Streeter and Carla Mettling will lead a 5-week book study "Food for Thought" where participants will read Mark Bittman's *Animal, Vegetable, Junk* and Sophie Egan's *How to be a Conscious Eater*. Bittman follows the ways people got their food throughout history, from being hunter-gatherers, to farmers, to cash crop workers, to junk-food consumers, and how such practices shaped their societies and lives. Egan, on the other hand, focuses on making us informed food shoppers who foster the planet, farmers, animals, and ourselves by the choices we make in food shopping.

The group will meet in the Guild Room on Saturday morning from 10 to 11:30, from January 24 to February 21. Those interested should get these books and start reading. The study will conclude with a special Conscious Eating Potluck for the whole parish, on Wednesday evening, March 4.

FOOD BANK MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed for An EmPower Pack Event on January 14

An EmPower Pack event will be held at the Missoula Food Bank on Wednesday, January 14th at 4:30 p.m. Holy Spirit participated in a similar event last August, and it was fun! It's a great activity for families and groups of friends. We need **30 volunteers** to prepare these bags of food for kids who experience chronic hunger over the weekends. So far, only **3 volunteers have signed up** – we need YOU to make this happen! This is a wonderful activity for families, youth, and groups of friends to share in service and fellowship. **Please sign up today in the parish hall and bring a friend!** Together, we can make a big difference for kids in our community.

December Food Bank Donations

A HUGE THANK YOU for your contributions to our Parish Hall Donation Basket! As we near the winter holidays let's help our friends and neighbors feel the wonder of the season with non-perishable warm foods and baking items such as: Dry/canned soups or beans, crackers, stuffing, canned pumpkin/cranberries, canned meats, applesauce and canned fruit, hot chocolate, marshmallows, oil, baking soda/powder, white/wheat flour, white/brown sugar, salt, seasonal spices, baking chips, nuts, cake/brownie/muffin mixes, or frosting.

Food Bank Cooking Classes

Do you have a filling family recipe that's perfect for those days the wind is howling outside? Tricks or tips for making dinner delicious? Did you know the Food Bank Community Center has their very own teaching kitchen? Reach out to Ashlee Schleicher at ashlee@missoulafoodbank.org to learn how you can teach your very own cooking class!

DONATIONS FOR FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise has expanded beyond housing and feeding homeless families at the Meadowlark and helping them find housing. It now supports and helps stabilize them during the first year in housing. Part of this support takes the form of kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom supplies for people who have had to do without these, living in their cars, in shelters, or with friends. We at Holy Spirit can help provide such supplies, either by purchasing them or streamlining what we have at home to donate unneeded items. **A list of supplies** will be in the back of the sanctuary for anyone interested to pick up. Your donations can be dropped off at the church office or given to me. I will be happy to pick them up. Thanks for your generosity and care.

Carla Mettling, HSP Family Promise Coordinator

406-203-7177 or carlamettling@gmail.com

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 4, 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.