+ Contemporary Worship + At Redeemer Lutheran Church

9:45 am December 10, 2023

Our mission is to share Christ's love with the greatest number of people. Second Sunday of Advent



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Advent is the season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. All this we find in the

presence of God who is here among us, who lives in us, surrounds us, and holds

us in the palm of his hand.

All We embrace God's presence, at this moment, and in this place.

Pastor In this and every season God brings people together.

All We embrace God's beloved among us.

Pastor In this and every season we celebrate life that is born where darkness reigned,

we celebrate the gift of love that overcame fear forevermore.

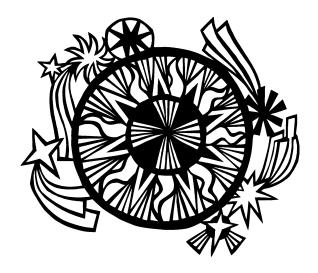
All We embrace the one who brings life.

Pastor In this and every season God is with us. **Lord, speak to us this day! Amen.**

Come And See

Lenny LeBlanc





CONFESSION

Pastor Lord of the universe, here in this place we seek your presence.

We long for wisdom, inspiration and peace.

All Come, Holy Spirit, shine into our souls!

Pastor Lord of all people, you call us your sons and daughters; you know us and love

us. We long to know where you might lead us.

All Come, Holy Spirit, let your light shine on our way!

Pastor Spirit of truth, pour your light into our souls and speak to us in this moment of

silence.

Sacred Silence

Pastor Lord, we are still caught in Adam's ways of sin and death. Together we confess:

All We acknowledge that we have rebelled against you in many ways,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Help us embrace and extend your love through thoughts, words, and deeds. You make everything new, including us.

Pastor Jesus Christ, who conquered sin and death, is here among us. In him we begin

anew every day, living in the glorious freedom of the children of God. In the tender compassion of our God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit your sins are

forgiven. May the blessings of God rest upon us all.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one

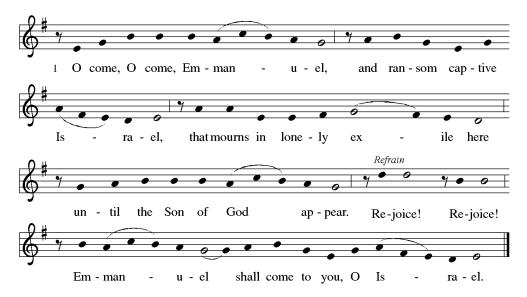
God, now and forever.

All Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Please stand and sing.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ADVENT WELCOME

The Advent Wreath will be lit by Denise and Lon Augustenborg.



Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah





Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it: surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader Word of God, word of life. **All** Thanks be to God.

Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

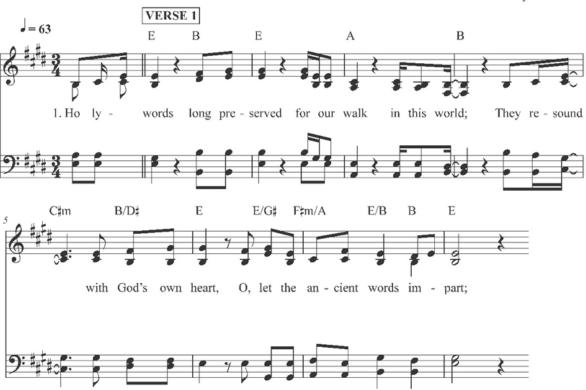
Reader Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ancient Words

Please stand and sing.

Words and Music by Lynn DeShazo



Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

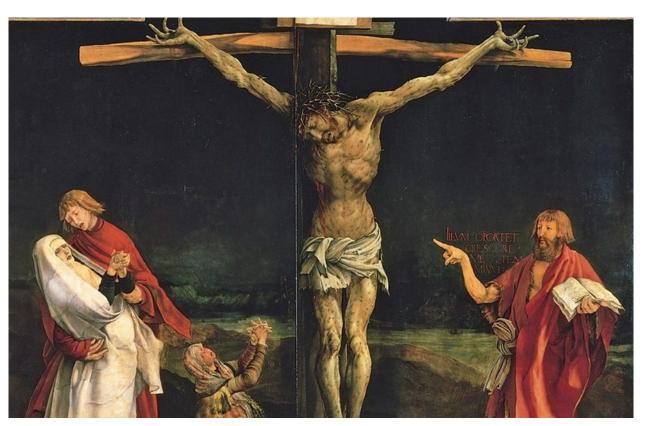
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

We Point to Jesus Pastor Josh Wullenweber

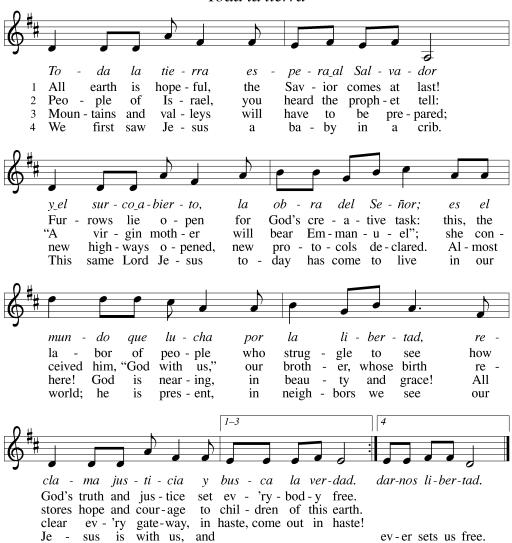


SONG OF THE DAY

Please stand and sing.

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



- Dice_el profeta al pueblo de Israel: "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
 - 4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

+ The Baptism of Mabel Ann Meagher +

Parents: Monica Augustenborg and Patrick Meagher Sponsors: Amanda Rodriguez and Jorgen Augustenborg

Pastor In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining

us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the

will of God.

Sponsors We present Mabel Ann for baptism.

Pastor Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God,

do you desire Mabel Ann to be baptized into Christ?

Parents We do.

Pastor As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with

responsibilities:

To live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents We do.

Pastor Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Mabel Ann in the Christian faith as you

are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism

and in communion with the church?

Sponsors We do.

Pastor People of God, do you promise to support Mabel Ann and pray for her in her

new life in Christ?

All We do.

Pastor I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of

the church.

Pastor Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this

world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All We renounce them.

Pastor Do you believe in God the Father?

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Pastor

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All

Amen.

Pastor

Mabel Ann Meagher,

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Mabel Ann with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

All

Amen.

Lighting the baptismal candle.

Pastor

Mabel Ann, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever.

Pastor

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Pastor

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we

share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God

and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS

Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns. After each portion of the prayers:

Merciful God, Asst. Min.

All

receive our prayer.

At the end of the prayer:

Pastor Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,

trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.

All And also with you.

Please greet one another with words such as "God's peace be with you." Please sit.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please give as you are able. We appreciate those who give in-person and those who give electronically.

Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.

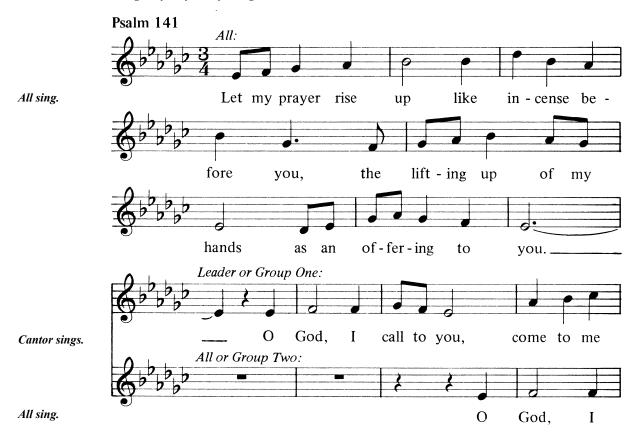
OFFERING MUSIC

"Jesus Messiah" by Chris Tomlin

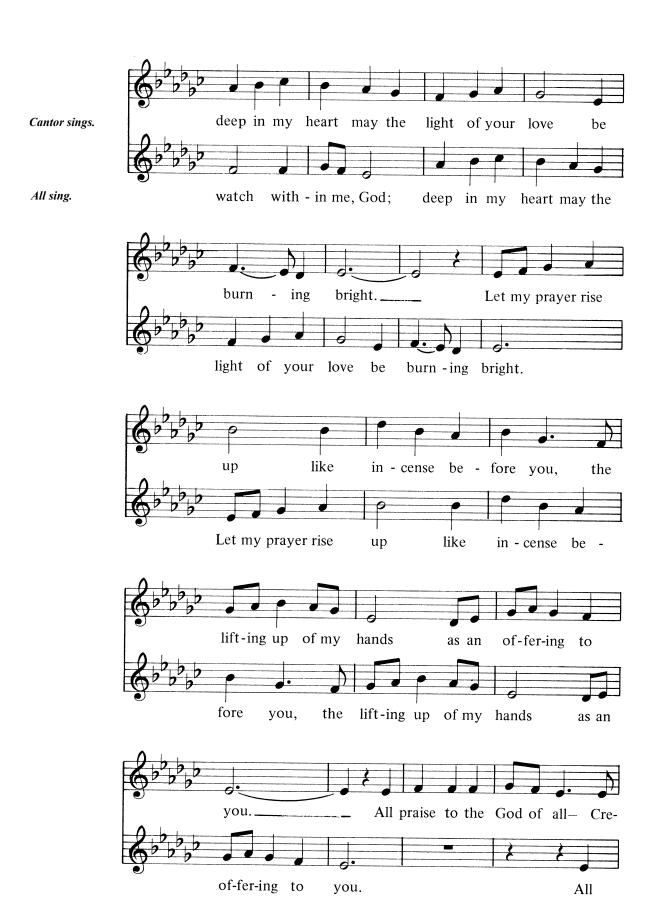
SONG OF OFFERING *Please stand and sing.*

PSALMODY, READINGS AND CANTICLES

From the Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen









OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.

All God our provider,

by your merciful hand

abundance springs up from the earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love

and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

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

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Our souls magnify you, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you, for you are our

Savior. In every generation, you have shown the lowly your favor and have blessed the poor in their need. When the time had come, you looked with favor on Mary in her lowliness and by the power of your Holy Spirit she gave birth to

your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

With all generations, we call you blessed, and with Mary and Joseph we rejoice in your saving help. Through them, through us, and through your whole Church you have done great things by your might and so with the saints, with angels and archangels, with all your people on earth and in heaven, we proclaim the holiness

of your name:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Pastor Come, for all is now ready.

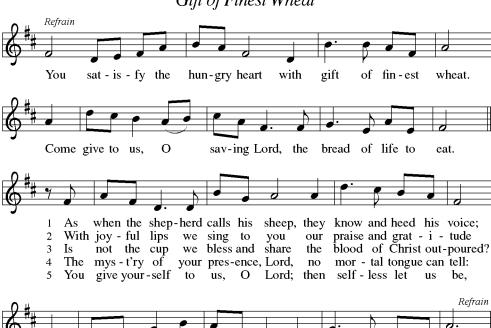
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. You are an important part of our faith community. For those taking Holy Communion: Pastor will give verbal instructions on how Holy Communion will be distributed.

COMMUNION SONG All sing.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart Gift of Finest Wheat



not

whom all

you should count us

serve each oth - er

wor-thy, Lord, to

in your name in

fol - low and re-joice.

share this heav'n-ly food.

one - ness in the Lord?

truth and char - i - ty.

our hearts to dwell.

when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we

one cup, one loaf, de-clare our

the world can - not con-tain comes in

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand.

Pastor May this bread of life and cup of salvation fill you with the hope, peace, joy, and

love that can only come from Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Asst. Min. Let us pray.

Generous God,

With this bread and cup you have revealed your glory

for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All Amen.



BLESSING

Pastor The God of peace bless you,

the love of Christ sustain you in hope,

and the anointing of the Holy Spirit + remain upon you

now and forever.

All Amen.

SENDING SONG All sing.

People, Look East



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b, 1934
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom, All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

DISMISSAL

Asst. Min. Go in peace. Share Christ's Love. **All Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Carol of the Bells" Mykola Dmytrovich Leontovich, arr. by Dick Averre, Bell Choir

New Beginnings

There are lots of ways to open a story, perhaps most famously "Once upon a time . . ." Similarly, the gospel-writer Mark starts out, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ," even though his narrative lacks the birth, angelic announcements, and childhood stories Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus. And John's gospel starts even farther back, at the beginning of creation, before skipping to Jesus' adult years. What we can take from these varying opening narratives is that the story of Jesus does not have one beginning, but many beginnings—each a new entry point into the old, old story of God's love breaking into the world.

Mark starts with an invitation to baptism, repentance, and forgiveness of sins. Even so, John the baptizer declares that another new start is coming, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus will bring. What's more, while his baptism by John is clearly not the first event in Jesus' life, it marks a new beginning just before he heads off to the wilderness and then on to start his public ministry.

We celebrate Advent every year at this time, but each time is a new experience, a new beginning of the church year, a new chance to anticipate grace. What has changed for you since last Advent? What has changed for your family and community? What expectations or hopes do you have for God's presence with us? What new beginning would be a blessing?

Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, and each time we take part in confession and forgiveness we experience a fresh start. Mark opens with baptism, which is a new beginning for each of us. Remembering our baptism offers us daily assurance of the new things God is always unfolding around us. Today as we worship, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir up something new in, with, and among us.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Children are welcome in our worship. There is a children's worship bulletin for them. If you prefer, a nursery and/or childcare is available for children up to age 3 during all worship services.

Hearing help available: We have for your use personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346

Email: Church@redeemermclean.org

Next Sunday's Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

Christmas and New Year's Celebrations at Redeemer

During the holiday season, Redeemer will offer several holiday services:

December 13 and 20 — **Wednesday Noonday Prayer** Lunch at 11:30 am and Worship Noon—12:30 pm

December 13 - **Wednesday Evening Prayer** 5:30 - 6 pm on Zoom

December 15 - Living Nativity, Friday at 6:30 pm and Holiday Concert and Sing-Along at 7:30 pm

December 20 — **Blue Christmas**, Wednesday Dinner at 6 pm and Worship at 7 pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services:

10 am — Advent Worship Service (one service only) 4 pm — Children's Christmas Pageant 6, 8, 10 pm — Traditional Candlelight Services

December 25 - Christmas Day Service at 10 am (one service only)

December 31 - **Lessons and Carols**, Sunday at 10 am (one service only) **New Year's Eve** Service at 5 pm

All are welcome to all services!

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

Call to Worship and Creed were written by Andreas Wagner Great Thanksgiving was written by Mark Rowland

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