# Emmanuel Episcopal Church Wakefield, Massachusetts Christmas Day



December 25, 2025 9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

## Welcome to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Wakefield, MA Belong, Be Loved, Flourish!

We are thrilled that you are here to worship with us today! Indeed, we welcome every person without exception in the name of Jesus Christ. You *belong* here and are an essential part of our family. We celebrate that you are *beloved by God*. We strive to "love God and love our neighbor," affirming that God created us for a relationship that leads to all creation *flourishing*. We pray you are drawn to healing and joy by being here today.

If this is your first time with us or your first time back in a while, please fill out the visitor's card in the pew or the Narthex (the entrance hall). We are a friendly family, so please introduce yourself to everyone, especially our rector, Reverend Brett.

#### A Note about Communion

The most important thing to know is that *you are welcome*. God invites you to be fed. All are welcome at the altar rail. Please let an usher know if you cannot come forward, and we will come to you.

The options for receiving wine include the chalice or intinction (dipping cup, a separate cup). In our tradition, we believe that taking communion in one kind – taking the bread – bestows the full benefit of the sacrament. Therefore, you may choose not to take the wine. If you would not like to receive, we encourage you to come forward, cross your arms across your chest, and allow the clergy to bless you. We offer consecrated gluten-free wafers and a non-alcohol alternative; simply let the clergy know.

Remember: this is God's table and you are welcome to meet God here!

#### A Note about Children

We *love all* our children. All children are welcome in the sanctuary! We ask that their big people help to teach them that this is a sacred space for quiet play and quiet voices. This helps ensure we honor those who need to worship in quiet.

# PRELUDE Vom himmel hoch (From heaven above)

# Georg Böhm (1661-1733)



Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

#### WELCOME

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

Celebrant: The people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light.
Celebrant: For to us a child is born
People: to us a Son is given.

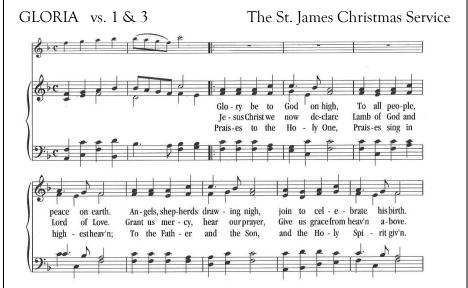
Celebrant: His name will be called Wonderful counselor,

mighty God,

People: the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest

People: and peace to God's people on earth.





#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

# FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his

people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

#### PSALM 98

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \* for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \* has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*
  his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of
  the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*
  and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \* lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \* with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \* shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \* the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \* and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

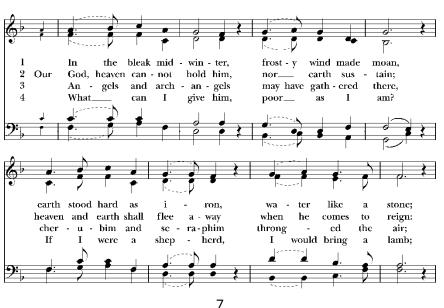
# 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \* and the peoples with equity.

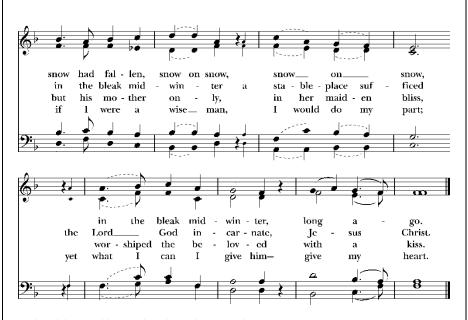
### SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

> The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

## SEQUENCE HYMN #112 vss. 1, 3 & 4 In the bleak midwinter





Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934).

## GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1:1-14

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON KAREN AALTO

#### NICENE CREED

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.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we join the whole creation and celebrate with joy the Word made flesh, let us offer prayers to God who dwells among us to the end of time.

By the wedding of the human and divine natures in Christ Jesus. Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Julia our bishop, for the clergy of this parish; for all bishops, priests, and deacons, for all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations and all in authority, and for peace and justice.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the witness of Christ's love, that all may have an experience of that self-giving love and come to know our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours especially those for whom we give thanks with our altar poinsettias. Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For travelers, for those who are sick and suffering, for those who are hungry and oppressed, for those in prison, and for those who are dying and those who have died, we pray. We especially remember Lester Hartman, husband of Deacon Holly Hartman, who passes away earlier this week and for those whom the poinsettias gracing our altar are given.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need. Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

**Celebrant:** Source of grace and truth, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we come to see the true light who shines throughout the world and who is God for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** 

# CONFESSION - Enriching Our Worship

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

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.

ABSOLUTION Page 360

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

Celebrant: Christ is already here making peace among us.

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The community shares a sign of peace.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### THE OFFERTORY

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. Psalm 50:14

OFFERTORY In dulci jubilo, BWV 608 (Good Christian friends, rejoice!)
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

DOXOLOGY Sung to the Christmas chorale, Vom Himmel hoch









### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

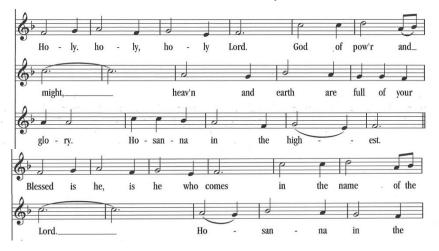
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:



The St. James Christmas Service





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 all 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 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.

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.** 

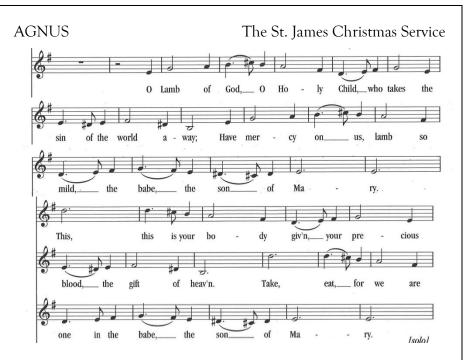
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

#### **COMMUNION**

All are invited to come forward to receive communion or a blessing.

Prayers for healing are also offered.

Please stay seated until you are invited forward by the usher, beginning from the back of the church.

COMMUNION Pastorale on Quem Pastores Laudavere Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER Let us pray.

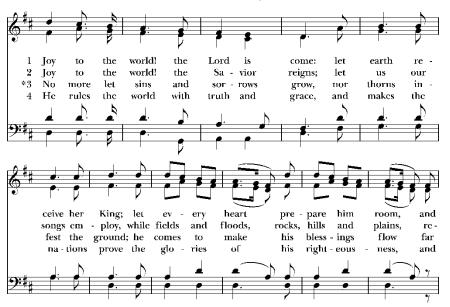
## Celebrant and People:

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.

#### BLESSING

May Christ, who by incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, Holy Eternal Majesty, Holy Incarnate Word, Holy Abiding Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

## CLOSING HYMN #100 vss. 1,2&4 Joy to the world!





Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

#### DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Postlude on Antioch Anthony Giamanco (b. 1958)

Please join us after the service for coffee hour in the Parish Hall hosted by Rev. Brett and Dave McSweeney.

This month's coffee hour recipient is the Wakefield Food Pantry.

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#### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant: The Rev. Brett R. Johnson

Seminarian Intern: Karen Aalto
Organist & Music Director Luca Cantone
Lector and Litanist: Ien Miles

LEM: Paul LaSpina and Eddie Parsons

Usher: Chris Chen

Altar Guild: Carol Johnson and Jen Miles

Vestry Greeter: Beth Martin
Streaming Coordinator: Dave McSweeney
YouTube Editor: Kim Collins
YouTube Scheduler: Denise Mallen



The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God, in thanksgiving for and in memory of our loved ones listed in the insert.

The congregation and staff of Emmanuel Episcopal Church wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a joyous new year! We look forward to worshipping with you throughout 2026!

Emmanual Prayer List: Kristin Baird, Donna Boudreau, Bob, Peter Brown, Bruna, Cathie Cardelucci, Lydia Cedrone, Ann Daily, John and Richard DeNatale, Peggy Downs, Evelyn Bourne Fell, David Fieldhouse, Connor Gallagher, Kristen Goddard, Louise Haldeman, Heidi, Karen Dodd Howard, JD, Jack Jephson, Ted Jobe, Ginny Johnson, Jordan, Tim Kelsey, Larry, Ken Leach, Linda, Kevin MacKenzie, Mark Martino, Mary, Don McCarter, Sara Murphy, T.A.N, Neil, Steve Newman, Judith Oder, Jim O'Reilly, Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Dustin Pollard, Mo Pollman, Susan Quinn, Tony R., Rebecca, Jude Ruzicka, Timothy Springer, Trudy, Vanessa, Amy Walsh, Bill & Jan, Kelly, and Alan Wright.

## **WOW! LOOK AT THAT!**

"If we believe that our unity comes from looking together into a mystery and occasionally nudging one another and saying, "[Wow!] Look at that!" it can help us to feel how the unity we enjoy

(Brett: with radical diversity!)

is not primarily about institutional uniformity... the unity is found in the common direction we are looking."

Rowan Williams,

Where God Happens: Discovering Christ in One Another

#### **HEALING PRAYER OFFERED TODAY**

The Prayer Team is available as a healing prayer resource at a prayer station to the left of the altar during communion and after the service.



On Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> we invite you to join us for our Intergenerational 10:00 AM service and the children of Emmanuel invite you to "PJ Sunday" at Emmanuel. You are encouraged to wear your pajamas! Who has the best PJ's? Hilarity to ensue!

#### WAKEFIELD FOOD PANTRY

The Wakefield Food Pantry most needed item for the month of December is canned beef stew.



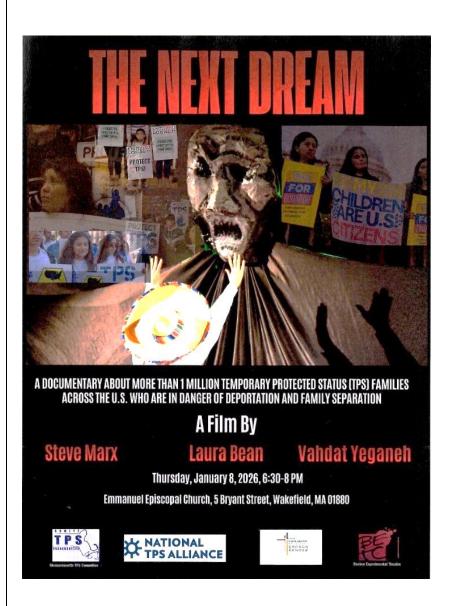
Join us **Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** for the **Feast of the Epiphany with Baptism service**. We will be baptizing The Rev. Ginger Solaqua and her husband Anthony's baby, Lizzie, with a reception following provided by the family.

Please note: The church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's, but messages will be checked regularly

If you would like to give to the ministries of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, please use this QR code



The cover photo can be found at: https://fineartamerica.com/featured/adoration-jen-norton.html



## JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SOUL SUPPER ON JANUARY 8TH

Please consider joining us for our Soul Supper and documentary film screening on Thursday, January 8, featuring a showing of The Next Dream, a 45-minute documentary exploring the lived experiences of immigrants and the promise of protection, dignity, and belonging. The film's focus is on families across the United States who are in Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and are thus in danger of deportation, separation, loss of health care or continuing higher education. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a legal immigration status granted by the U.S. government that allows nationals of designated countries to remain and work in the United States temporarily due to unsafe conditions in their home country. This film has been shared with local and national lawmakers in an ongoing effort to educate as many as possible about the struggles faced by these neighbors and friends.

We will be joined by one of the filmmakers, as well as by at least one of the people featured in the film, who will share their stories. There will also be a Q&A following the showing. The start time for the showing is planned to be **6:30**. The Supper will begin at 6:00pm.

Since this Soul Supper will be open to the wider community, we are requesting an RSVP. Please RSVP to the church office at <a href="mailto:eecw@verizon.net">eecw@verizon.net</a> or by signing up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Please note that the film showing will be in-person only and will NOT be available via Zoom or recorded due to copyright restrictions. Due to demand, there may be an online showing in the future. For more information, please check the website of the Boston Experimental Theatre:

https://bostonexperimentaltheatre.com/the-last-dream/

We would like to enthusiastically thank Episcopal City Mission (ECM) for connecting us with the producers to be able to arrange a showing



Emmanuel Episcopal Church is a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community dedicated to spiritual growth through worship and education for adults and children.



Emmanuel embodies Christ's light in service to all. Here, through God's love and grace, all are accepted, purpose is found, and together we flourish.



Bishop Diocesan: The Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth (she/her) Rector: The Rev. Brett R. Johnson (he/him) 978-206-1788

Seminarian Intern: Karen Aalto (she/her) kpaalto00@gmail.com

Organist and Music Director: Luca Cantone 332-209-8432 Co-Warden: Kim Collins (she/her) 339-224-8455 Co-Warden: Beth Martin (she/her) 781-308-3474

Please be advised that our services are live streamed on our YouTube channel. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.

## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Emmanuel sits on the traditional land of the Algonquian-speaking Pawtucket tribe. We are grateful to these caretakers of the land and waters: the elders who lived before, the Indigenous people today, and the generations to come. We are guests on this land and have used it and its people for our betterment, often at their expense. We commit to doing our part to become better stewards of this land, understanding the impact of present and past exploitation, and working toward a more just and equitable future.

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church** 

5 Bryant Street Wakefield MA 01880 www.EmmanuelWakefield.org