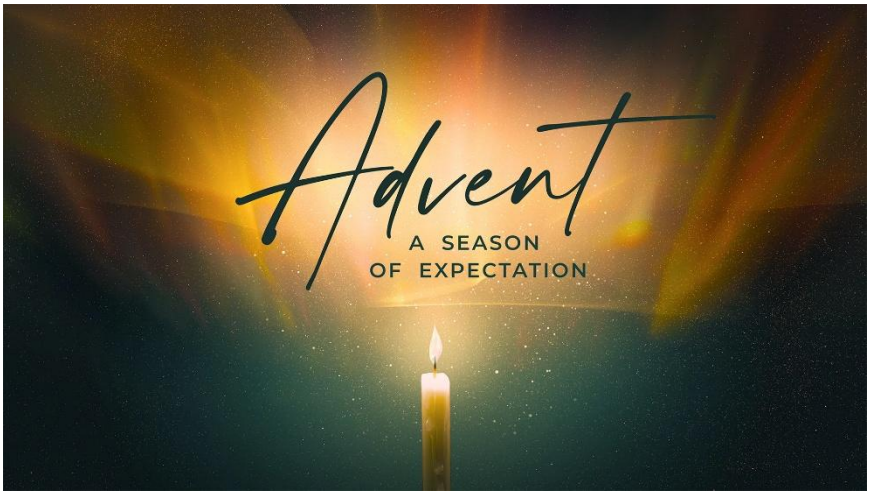
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Wakefield, Massachusetts

The First Sunday of Advent



November 29, 2026
10:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

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

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

If this is your first time, or first time back in a while, please fill out the visitors' card in the pew or Narthex. Introduce yourself to Rev. Brett and our Greeters — we are a friendly family!

A Note about Communion *You (all!) are welcome.* God invites you to be fed. All are welcome at the altar rail. Wine options include the chalice, intinction (a separate cup), or a non-alcohol alternative — simply let the clergy know. If you prefer not to receive, come forward with arms crossed for a blessing. *Our Altar Bread is Gluten Free*. If you cannot come forward, let an usher know and we will come to you.

A Note about Children We *love* all our children. Childcare and Kids' Club are available most Sundays at the10:00 a.m. service in their special place off the Parish Hall. Once a month, children join us in the sanctuary as ushers, readers, and altar assistants. All children are welcome in the sanctuary — we ask that their grown-ups help them use quiet voices and quiet play, honoring those who need stillness to worship.

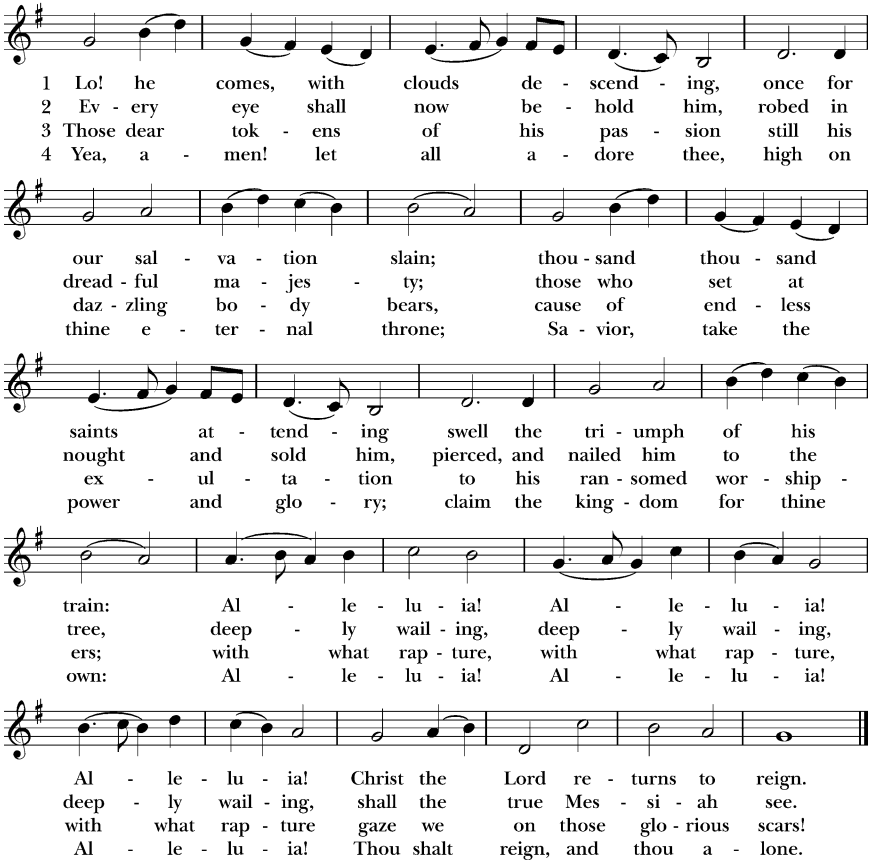
Assistive Listening Devices Four lightweight receivers are available at the back of the sanctuary. Pick one up, insert the earbud, and adjust the volume as needed — devices are charged and ready each week. Helpful for hearing differences or simply for clearer sound. See an usher with any questions.

We acknowledge that Emmanuel sits on the traditional land of the Algonquian-speaking Pawtucket tribe, whose caretaker's past, present, and future we honor with gratitude. As guests who have too often benefited at their expense, we commit to becoming better stewards and working toward a more just future.

As we prepare our hearts for worship, we kindly ask that you please silence your cell phones. Thank you.

PRELUDE Wachet auf, BWV 645 (*Sleepers, wake!)* J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #57 *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

O ANTIPHON I: O *Sapientia (Choir)*

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.
Ecclesiasticus 24:3, Wisdom 8:1

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Jill Biggar

Celebrant: You know what time it is. The night is far gone, the day is near. It is the in-between time. Right now, the nights are still drawing longer, but soon that will cease, and the daylight will begin to increase. In this in-between time, of fall into winter, we know the promise of spring will come even if we cannot sense it. We know what time it is: time to watch and wait for signs of Christ's presence in our world and in our lives in a new way. What is being revealed to you in the darkness? What is hidden that is waiting for you to know?

Light the first candle

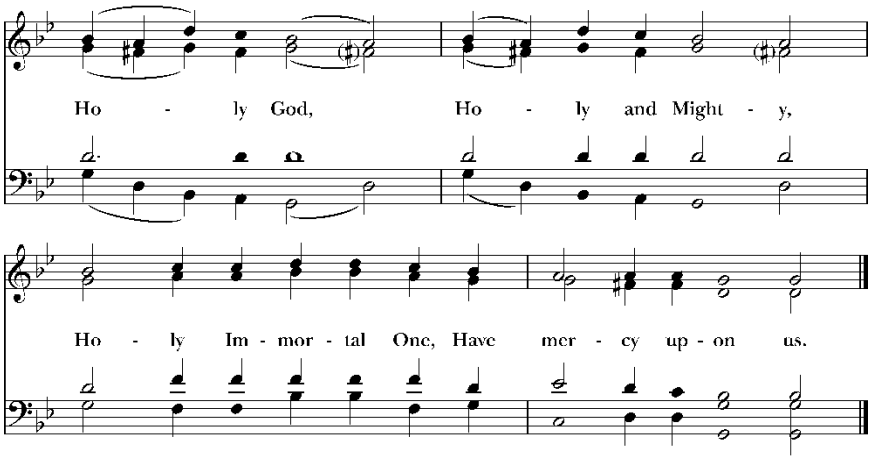
Leader: Now is the time for us to wake from sleep. Light of the World, we wait for You. Voice in the Darkness, we wait for You. Prepare us to receive You in our world and in our lives in a new way**. Amen.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bishop: Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.
*People***:** **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

TRISAGION #S102 - *sung 3x*



Music: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence–

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil–
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

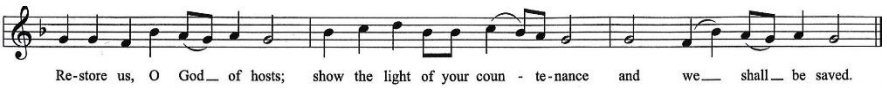
The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

The Psalm will be sung by the congregation and choir.

Antiphon



Antiphon (Choir once, then all sing)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

ANTIPHON (all)

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

ANTIPHON (all)

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

ANTIPHON (all)

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

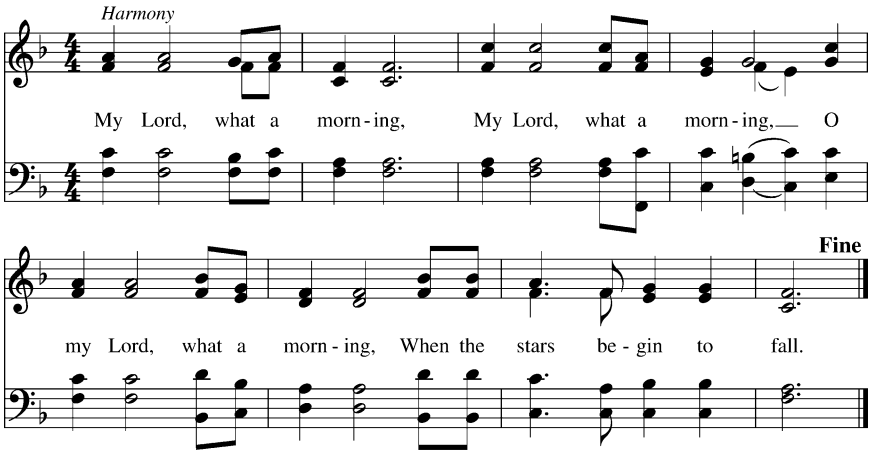
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

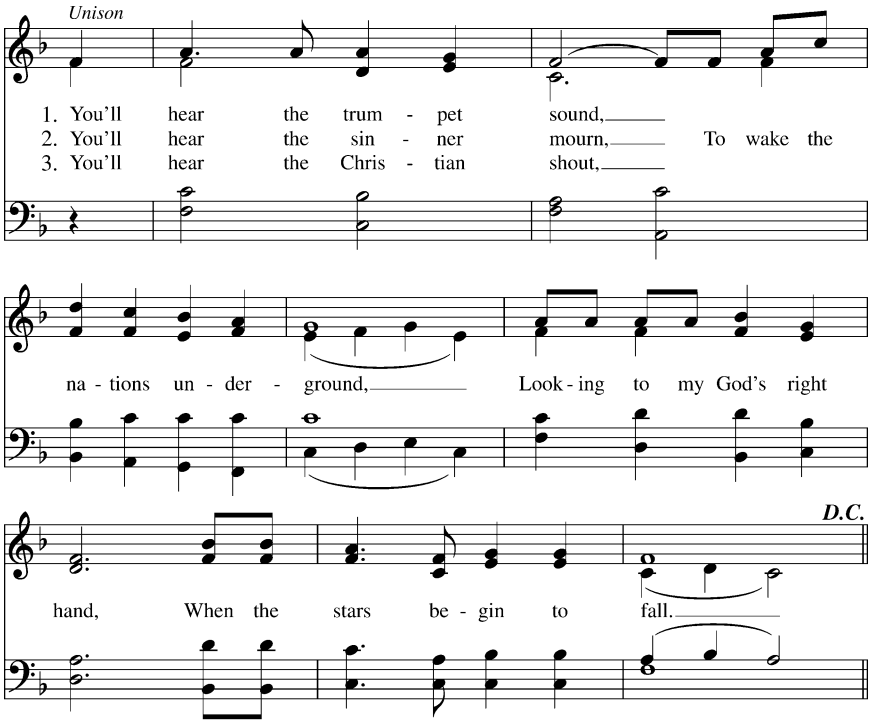
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind– just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you– so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS #13 vs. 1 *My Lord, What a Morning*





Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.

GOSPEL LESSON: MARK 13:24-37

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his

elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

SERMON LAUREN RIGSBY

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

The Prayers of the People were written by the people of Emmanuel for the people of Emmanuel.

This Advent, may we open our hearts to the joy and excitement of God bringing forth pure light into our weary souls. May we feel the wonder of a love that never ceases, and allow this extraordinary gift to take root within the darkest parts of ourselves and the world.

Let us pray, saying:

Leader: Living Christ,
People: **May your love come alive in us**.

God of everlasting hope, you entered our world not in power or splendor, but in the vulnerability of a child. Bless Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Julia, Ian, and Mary, our bishops; Brett, our rector; and all who lead and serve your Church, especially our staff,

vestry, and volunteers here at Emmanuel. Remind your Church that true greatness is found in love, and true strength in service. May we be a people who bring your light into the darkness, and awaken hope wherever it has been lost.

(Silence)

Leader: Living Christ,
People: **May your love come alive in us.**

God of new beginnings, rekindle in us the dream of a nation founded on liberty, justice, and dignity for all. When fear and division cloud our judgment, open our hearts to truth. Give those entrusted with leadership the courage to stand against injustice, the patience to listen to all of their people, and the wisdom to seek solutions rooted in compassion and the common good. May we never lose sight of our common humanity, and where hope has fallen, help it rise again.

(Silence)

Leader: Living Christ,
People: **May your love come alive in us.**

God of peace, into a world that knew suffering, you sent a child who would teach us a different way to live. We pray for those whose lives are being destroyed by war, hunger, displacement, and despair. May the birth of Christ renew our courage to work for a world where every human being can live with dignity, and all of your beautiful creation is cherished, sustained, and loved.

(Silence)

Leader: Living Christ,
People: **May your love come alive in us.**

God of love, you chose to enter the world among ordinary people, in an ordinary place, reminding us that no life is too small to hold

your presence. Open our eyes to the power of connecting with kindness and patience to the person right in front of us. Give us the courage to reach out, even in the smallest ways, and remind one another of our shared humanity, our vulnerability, and our capacity for kindness.

(Silence)

Leader: Living Christ,
People: **May your love come alive in us.**

God of compassion, you came into this world knowing the tenderness and vulnerability of human life. Draw near to those whose hearts are heavy, whose bodies are hurting, and whose spirits are weary. For those struggling to find joy in this season, remind them that your light shines even in their darkest hours, and that hope can be born again, even in the midst of sorrow.

We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts.

(Silence)

Leader: Living Christ,
People: **May your love come alive in us.**

God of eternal love, in the birth of Christ you gave the world a promise that neither darkness nor death could overcome. We remember those who have died, especially those we hold with hearts in this season. We give them to your everlasting peace, and ask your help to comfort those who grieve. May the hope of Christ's birth remind us that love endures, and that even in our deepest longings, you are walking with us always. We especially remember John DiMaggio, dear friend of Mary Muir who died this week and Gordon Leavis in whose loving memory the altar flowers are given today.

(Silence)

Leader: Living Christ,
People: **May your love come alive in us.**

Celebrant: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION - *Enriching Our Worship*

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Silence may be kept

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

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Veiled in darkness* *Glenn L. Rudolph (b. 1951)*

Veiled in darkness Judah lay,
Waiting for the promised day,
While across the shadowy night
Streamed a flood of glorious light,
Heav'nly voices chanting then,
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men'.

Still the earth in darkness lies,
Up from death's dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief,
Prayers of those who see relief
Now our darkness pierce again,
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men.'

Light of light, we humbly pray,
Shine up on Thy world today;
Break the gloom of our dark night,
Fill our souls with love and light,
Send thy blessed word again
'Peace on earth, good will to men'.

Please stand as you are able

DOXOLOGY #60 vs.1 *Creator of the stars of night* (all singing)

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

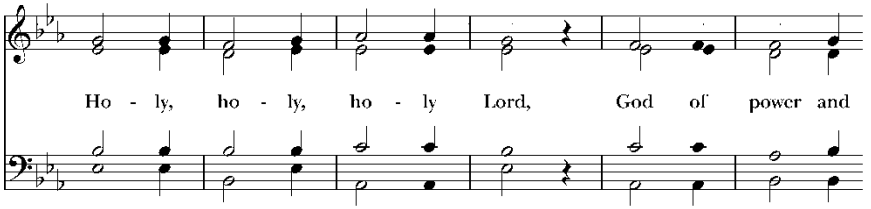
THE HOLY EUCHARIST - Eucharistic Prayer 1, *Enriching our Worship*

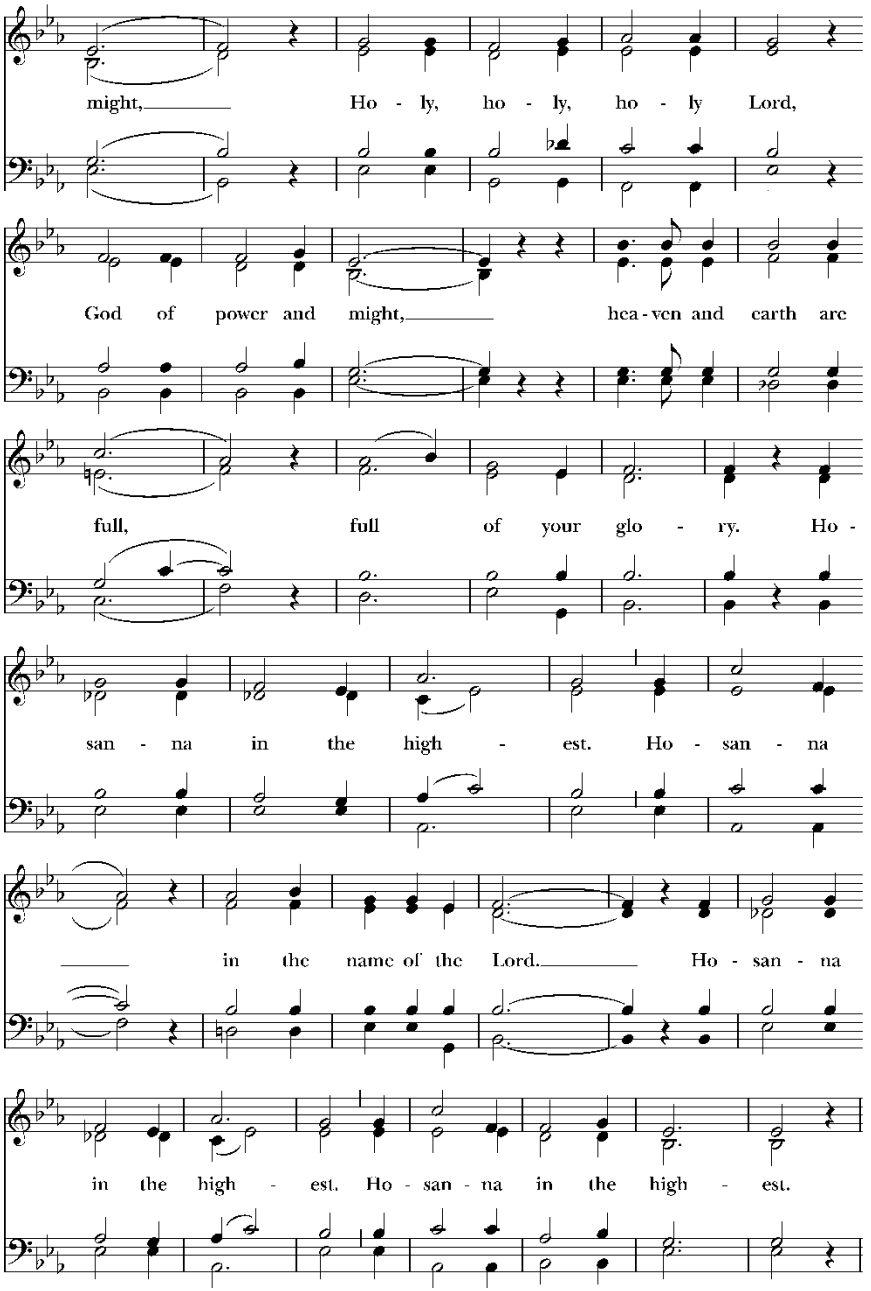
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

SANCTUS #S130





Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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**.

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

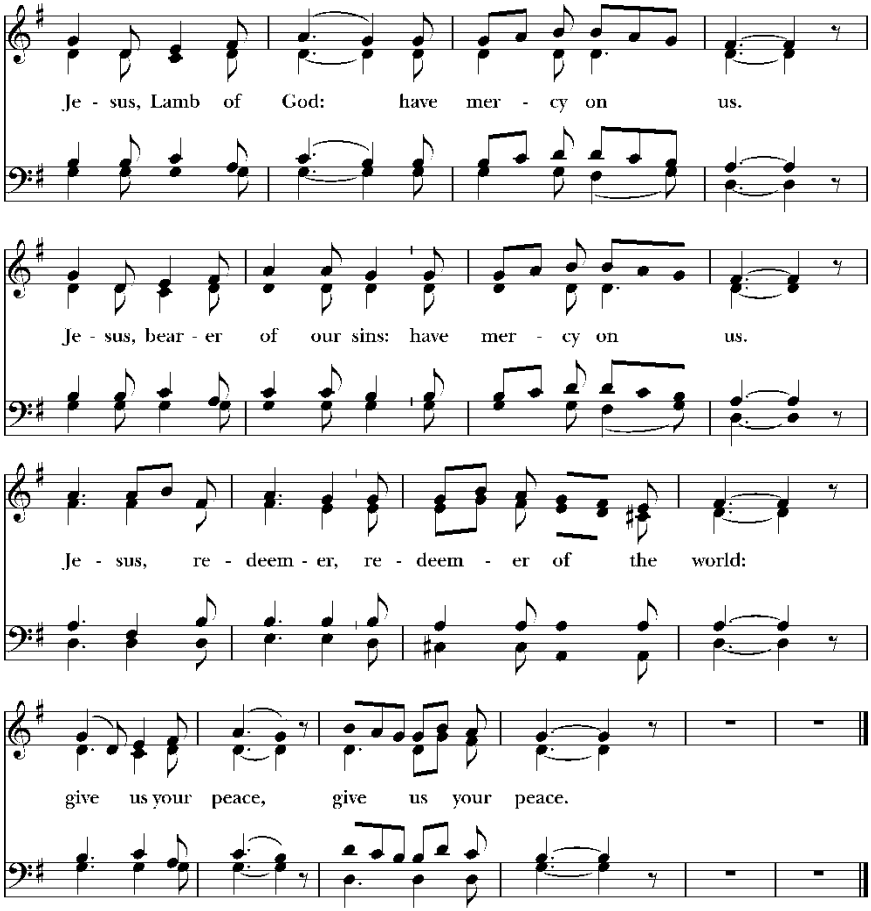
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

The people stand or kneel.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.

AGNUS DEI #S164



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

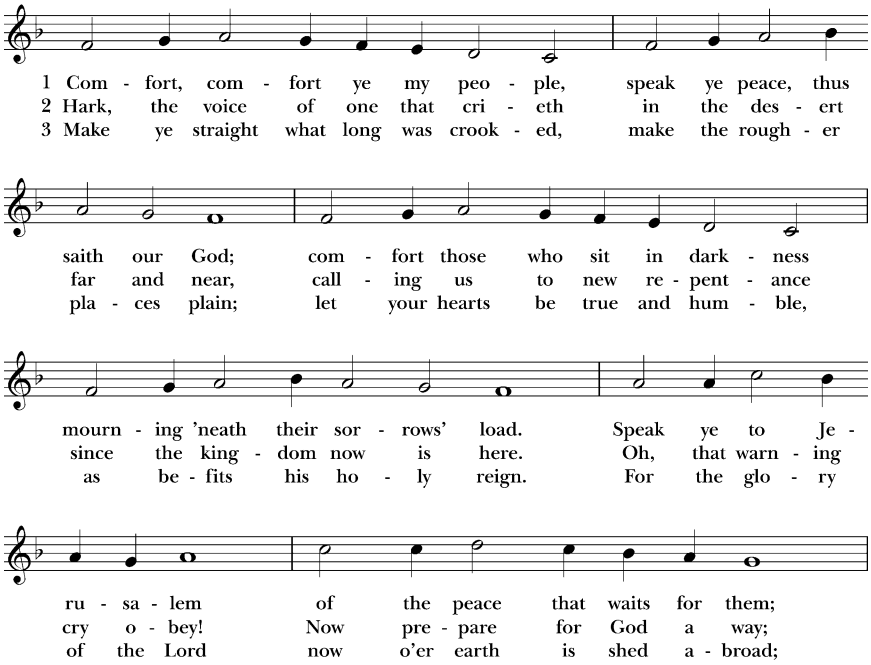
Our altar bread is gluten free.

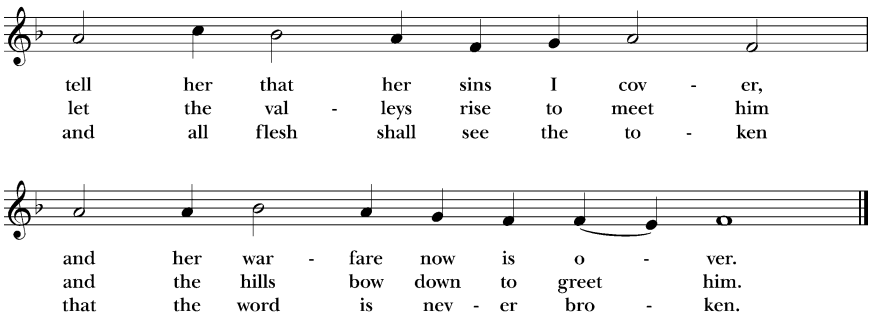
Prayers for healing are also offered.

Choir members will receive communion first.

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

COMMUNION HYMN #67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*





Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

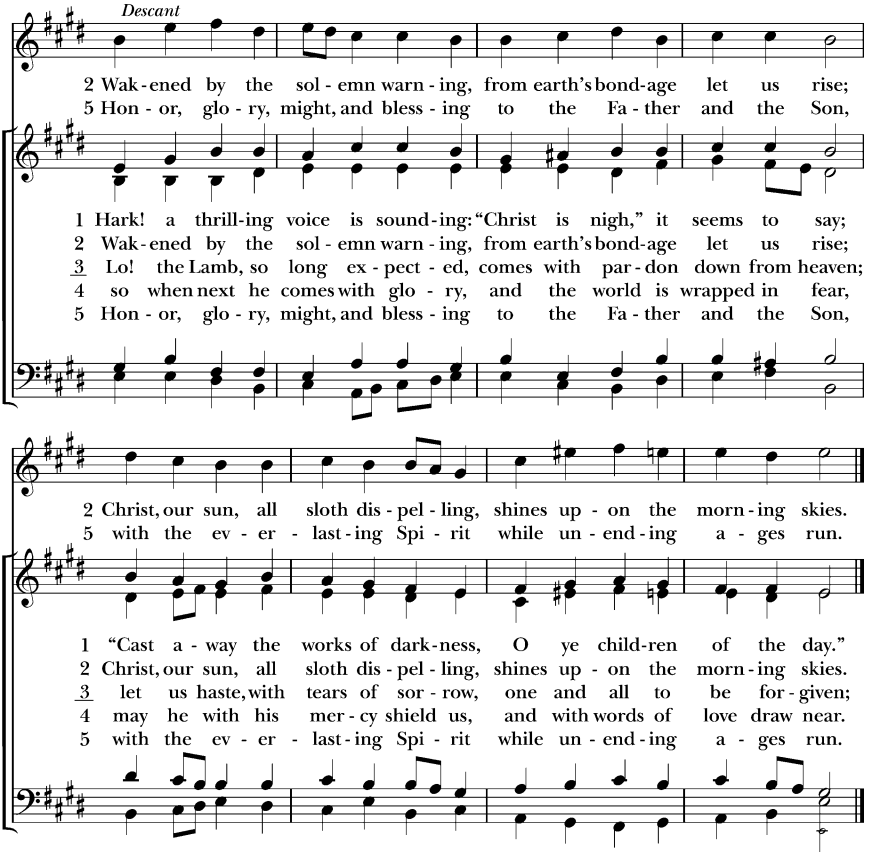
BLESSING *Planning for Rites and Rituals – Year B*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Source, the Christ, and the Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

O ANTIPHON II: *O Adonai (Choir)*

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.
Exodus 3:2, 24:12

CLOSING HYMN #59 *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

DISMISSAL

Intern Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fanfare on Helmsley (*Lo, he comes with clouds descending*)
Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

Please join us after the service for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall hosted by Joanne Crowe & Geoff Blackett.

This month's coffee hour recipient is
Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV)

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant:	The Rev. Brett R. Johnson
Organist & Music Director	Luca Cantone
Postulant Intern:	Lauren Rigsby
Lector:	Chris Healy
Litanist:	Dawn Jackson
Eucharistic Ministers:	Paul LaSpina and Amy Walsh
Usher:	Dawn Jackson
Advent Wreath Lighters:	The Santarelli Family
Altar Guild:	Faith Hodgkins, Carol Johnson, and Erin Nobles
Vestry Greeter:	Eddie Parsons
Streaming Coordinator:	Dave McSweeney
YouTube Editor:	Kim Collins
YouTube Scheduler:	Denise Mallen

The flowers adorning our altar are offered to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her father, Gordon Leavis, on the 40th anniversary of his passing by Kim Collins.

HEALING PRAYER OFFERED TODAY

The Prayer Team is available as a healing prayer resource at a prayer station to the left of the main altar after each service and during communion at the 10:00 a.m. service.

EMMANUEL PRAYER LIST

Andrew, Debbie and Evelyn Bourne, Peter Brown, Camilla and Kelley, Lydia Cedrone, John Claya, Wallie Cook, Jacob DeCarlen-Bumiller, John DeNatale, Donna, Erica, Kristen Goddard, Michelle Hager, CJ, Ginny Johnson, Jonathan, Kevin MacKenzie, Diane Manning, Mark Martino, Sara Murphy, Olivia, Mo Pollman, Rebecca, Carolyn and Jeff Robinson, Sheila and Josh, Trudy, Amy Walsh, Kelly Wood, and Alan Wright.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the churches of the Alewife Deanery: Church of Our Saviour, Arlington; St. John's Church, Arlington; Order of St. Anne & Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington; The Standing Committee; and Brotherhood of St. Gregory.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING ALTAR FLOWERS

Each week beautiful flowers grace our altar. **We have an opening on December 6th.** Donations in any amount towards altar flowers are always welcome to help defray expenses to the church's flower budget. If you would like to remember or celebrate your loved ones with flowers on the altar, please speak to Lisa Ventura 781-526-9777 or lventura@emmanuelwakefield.org.

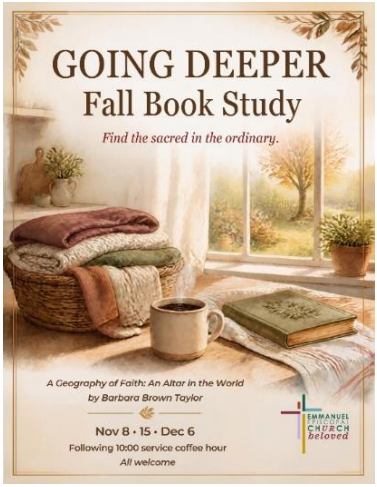
AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU:

Resources for Spiritual Practice in Advent 2025
An Advent Calendar from The Rev. Thomas Mousin

ANNUAL BOY SCOUT WREATH SALE IS TODAY!

Boy Scouts from Troop 701 will be selling evergreen wreaths after both services TODAY!





The final session **of our fall** book study ***A Geography of Faith – An Altar in the World*** by Barbara Brown Taylor will be held **on Sunday, December 6th** after the 10:00 AM service.

This session will be led by Lauren Rigsby and will focus on Chapter 12.

We would love to have you join us even if you haven't read the book!

KIDS KORNER



IMPORTANT DATES:

December 6th: Intergenerational Service
Coffee Hour Craft! Help us replenish the Rock Garden before winter arrives!
December 11th: Advent Adoration Prep at 5:00pm in Parish Hall
December 20th: Advent Adoration during 10:00am service

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Ornaments are coming your way! Nicole Russo has teamed up with Kids Club to help us make ornaments to raise money for the Wakefield Food Pantry. We are so excited to share our gifts and following our calling to serve our community in different ways. We will be selling ornaments starting in December during coffee hour and by order form; price will be "by donation" so please give whatever you feel is best.

HELP US STOCK OUR LITTLE FREE PANTRY!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has been donating food to keep our Little Free Pantry stocked! The pantry is getting a lot of use, which is wonderful, but it also means we need to restock it every day.

We could use a little extra help! In addition to food donations, we're looking for volunteers to help keep the pantry filled and organized. This is a simple task that would take no more than 30 minutes a day.

Ideally, we'd love to have a volunteer for each day of the week. If you can commit to one day a week, please let Lisa in the church office know. Your help would make a big difference!

Food donations can be placed in the Little Free Pantry donation box in the Narthex closet or in the donation box in the church office.

Thank you for your generosity, your time, and your willingness to help care for our neighbors. Every donation and every helping hand makes a difference!

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The church's new year begins today, the first Sunday in Advent. Happy church new year, everyone! Get your Advent party hats ready! The word "advent" comes from the Latin word "*adventus*," which means "coming." This makes sense considering Advent is our season of preparation, hope, and expectation for the coming of Jesus' birth on Christmas. If you look at the lectionary (our scripture readings) for the season of Advent, you might notice that the season is also preparing for the "second coming" of Jesus when we will see the kingdom of God on earth, as it is in heaven. So, Advent is a season that does something pretty cool and complex with time; it anticipates and prepares for the inbreaking of God-with-us / Emmanuel / Jesus which happened historically 2,000ish years ago, is happening right now, and will fully come to fruition in the future.

Together as a church family, we will prepare ourselves by: singing Advent hymns, lighting candles on the Advent wreath, and wrapping up our book study on *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. You may find it meaningful to have a special Advent devotional to help you access the posture of preparing the way of the Lord, here and now, in hope. Keep a lookout for the updated 2026 list of Advent resources.

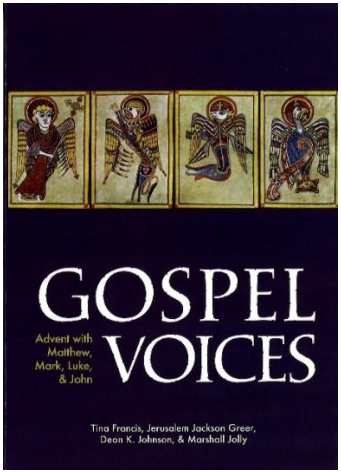
Lauren Rigsby, Postulant Intern





This holiday season, Emmanuel is collecting gift cards to support the Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV). WAAV is spreading some cheer by collecting toys and monetary donations for children of survivors of domestic violence. It's a simple way to help bring a little joy to families who have been through so much. Every toy or donation makes a difference and helps brighten the holidays for survivors and their kids.

ADVENT 2026 DEVOTIONAL AND RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL PRACTICE



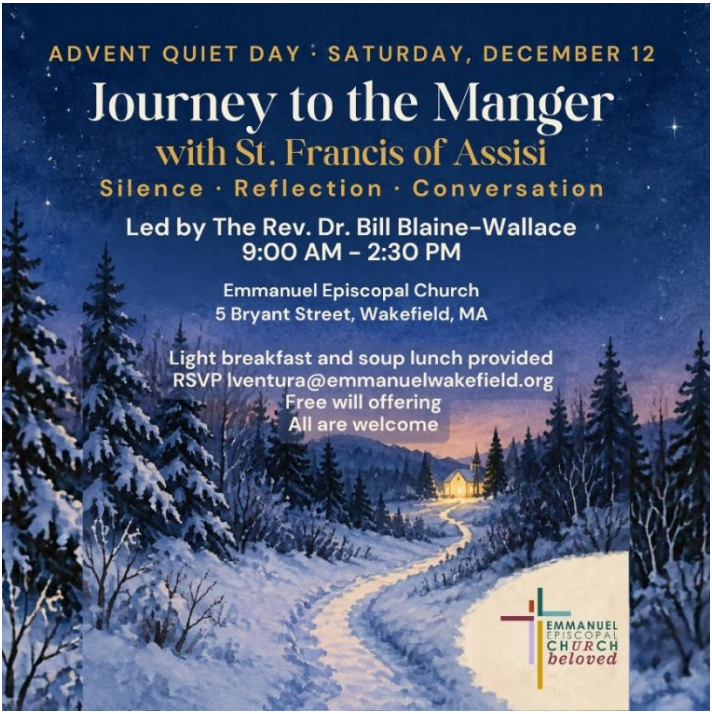
Every year during this holy season, God invites us to step away and contemplate Christ's coming with awe and wonder. We prepare our hearts in quiet gratitude. Each year I suggest resources for you, and this year I have purchased several copies of the newest release from Forward Movement, *Gospel Voices: Advent with Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John*. You can also find a list of resources for spiritual practice in Advent 2026 in the Narthex. I have most of these books in my office for you to look at and borrow. What a gift it is to journey together during these short, sacred weeks!
Gratefully, Brett+

10:00 COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

Hosting is a fun way to connect with our Emmanuel community, whether you host individually, with a friend, or as a committee. **Open dates are December 27.** Sign up on the poster in the Narthex, the clipboard on the refreshment table, or by emailing Colleen Moran (colleenm781@gmail.com) or Lisa in the church office.

WAKEFIELD FOOD PANTRY

The most needed item for the month of November is Pasta Roni



Advent invites us to slow down, and December rarely lets us. This year, set aside a Saturday to do it on purpose.

Join us for an Advent Quiet Day led by The Rev. Dr. Bill Blaine-Wallace, an Episcopal priest, pastoral counselor, and spiritual director who has ministered in parishes, hospices, and mental health settings. Bill lives in rural Maine with his spouse on a farm that's also home to rescued donkeys, and he is passionate about creating space for conversations that matter.

Through the day, Bill will guide us in reflecting on St. Francis: praying alone in the woods, standing between those who fight, forgetting what others think, and offering and receiving motherly love. Each session pairs a short reflection with silence and conversation. A light breakfast starts the day, and we'll share a soup lunch together. The day is offered by free-will offering.

Registration is required. Please RSVP to lventura@emmanuelwakefield.org.



Please let us know if you are coming by signing up on the sheet in the Narthex or emailing the office. If you can contribute something for the dinner – main or side dish, salad, desserts or drinks, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!


Blue Christmas
A quiet service of candlelight, music, and prayer
Wednesday, December 16 · 7:00 PM
Emmanuel Episcopal Church · 5 Bryant Street, Wakefield, MA
God meets us tenderly in the valley
just as surely as on the mountaintop.
— The Rev. Brett Johnson
For anyone grieving, uncertain, or finding the season hard.
All are welcome.

The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, Bishop Diocesan
Will be visiting Emmanuel on Sunday, December 20th,

As I announced, we are overjoyed that our Bishop Diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth, will be joining us on Sunday, December 20th, the final Sunday of Advent. Please mark the date on your calendar. At her request, we will have one service at 10:00 a.m. during which she will preach and preside. After the service, we gather with her for a festive brunch led by our Special Events team. During this reception, she will share her vision and take questions. Afterward, she will meet with the vestry for an hour.

In the day's instructions, one of the great benefits she is offering is the opportunity for baptism, confirmation, receptions, and reaffirmation of vows. I realize the timing is short, so I invite each of you to consider if the Holy Spirit is calling you to one of these sacred commitments.

Baptism is "the full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church." (*BCP, 298*). Adult baptism is a real thing! If you have not been baptized, this may be your opportunity!
Confirmation is a personal declaration of faith in God, an offering of life to God's will, and a commitment to life within the community of Christ. Again, it is not merely for 10th-graders!
Reception is for those baptized in another tradition who would like to be received into The Episcopal Church.
Reaffirmation of Vows is another option for those who feel called to reaffirm the commitments they have made in the past. This is a declaration of your wish to recommit yourself to the Christian life of faith.

If you discern that the Spirit is calling you to any of these paths, our time is short. Please see me, and we will meet to prepare properly.

I am so eager to have Bishop Julia spend time with you, beloved Emmanuel. She already loves you through me and will be able to

PARISH SCHEDULE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Sunday, November 29	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist – Rite I
	9:00 AM	Coffee Hour and Boy Scouts selling wreaths
	9:45 AM	Nursery Care
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist – Rite II
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour and Boy Scouts selling wreaths
Tuesday, December 1	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 2	12 NOON	Clericus @ Emmanuel
	2:00 PM	Warden's Meeting
	6:00 PM	Evening Prayer
Saturday, December 5	2:00 PM	Karen Aalto's Ordination at Emmanuel, Boston
	4:00 PM	Rainbow Recovery
Sunday, December 6	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist – Rite I
	9:00 AM	Coffee Hour
	9:45 AM	Nursery Care
	9:45 AM	Kids' Club
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist – Rite II Intergenerational Service
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour and Kindness Rock Garden Painting
	11:45 PM	Fall Book Study – *Altar in the World*

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

OUR MISSION:

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

OUR VISION:

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.

EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
beloved

Bishop Diocesan: The Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth (she/her)

Rector: The Rev. Brett R. Johnson (he/him)	978-206-1788
Organist and Music Director: Luca Cantone	332-209-8432
Postulant Intern: Lauren Rigsby	210-275-3115
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.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
5 Bryant Street Wakefield MA 01880
www.EmmanuelWakefield.org