

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Wakefield, Massachusetts
Christmas Eve



December 24, 2025
5:00 PM

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Five Bryant Street, Wakefield, MA 01880
www.emmanuelwakefield.org

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 *Puer natus est* (A boy is born)Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

INTROIT *Wexford Carol* - Traditional Irish carol

arr. Robert Lehman (b. 1960)

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending His beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon the morn
There was a blest Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide
The noble virgin and her guide
Were long time seeking up and down
To find a lodging in the town.
But mark how all things came to pass:
From every door repelled, alas!
As long foretold, their refuge all
Was but a humble oxen stall.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
Prepare and go, the angels said,
To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn,
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel has foretold,
They did our Savior Christ behold.

Within a manger He was laid,
 And by His side the virgin maid
 Attending to the Lord of Life,
 Who came on earth to end all strife.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83 O come, all ye faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye,
 2. God of God, Light of Light, lo, He
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing, all
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born for our sal - va - tion; Je - su

O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold Him,
 ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -
 ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 to Thee be glo - ry giv'n! Word of the Fa - ther,

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a - dore Him; O come, let us
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

a - dore Him; O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lizzy Barr and Lindsey Perry

Celebrant: Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

(The four Advent candles are lit.)

Friends: O God, now we light the candle of the nativity!

(The Christ candle is lit.)

Celebrant: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us.

Friends: This is the time of light and resplendent joy.

Celebrant: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light.

Friends: A light would shine and a child would be born to us.

Celebrant: The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, “Glory, peace on earth, and goodwill!”

Friends: John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh.

Celebrant: This great light lives among us.

Friends: By it we behold God’s glory—full of grace and truth.

Celebrant: At Christ’s nativity, we now rejoice.

All: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In

every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace.
Amen.

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.**

GLORIA #280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are scat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. 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.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness ~ on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96

The Psalm will be sung by the congregation and choir.

Antiphon



From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Antiphon (Choir once, then all sing)

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Antiphon (all)

3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Antiphon (all)

7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

Antiphon (all)

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Antiphon (all)

SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: #89 vss. 1 & 4 *It came upon the midnight clear*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear". It is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a voice part. The piano accompaniment is shown in the bottom two staves. The lyrics are as follows:

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -



near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary

and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. BRETT R. JOHNSON

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 *Planning for Rites and Rituals*

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life: Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.

You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And peace to God's people on earth.

Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And peace to God's people on earth.

Embrace with your eternal protection all who are poor: refugees and the displaced, those threatened by violence, and families with no place to call their home.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And peace to God's people on earth.

Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And peace to God's people on earth.

We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray, especially:
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.

We give thanks for shepherds and all the vigilant who work while others sleep. Hear our grateful thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings in our lives, especially those for whom we give thanks with our altar poinsettias.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And peace to God's people on earth.

We entrust into your eternal arms those who have died, tonight we especially remember Lester Hartman, husband of Deacon Holly Hartman, who passed away earlier this week and those for whom the poinsettias gracing our altar are given.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And peace to God's people on earth.

Celebrant: Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our

hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **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 ANTHEM *In the Bleak Midwinter* Harold Darke
(1888-1976)

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

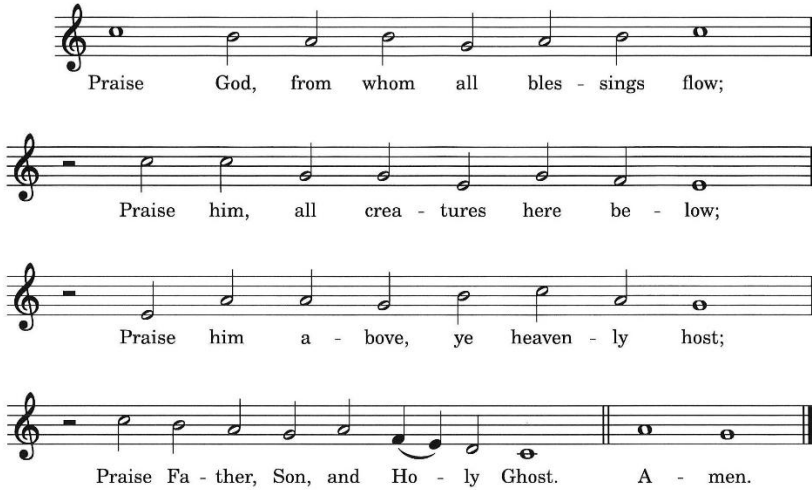
*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
 Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

DOXOLOGY Sung to the Christmas chorale, Vom Himmel hoch



Praise God, from whom all bles - sings flow;

Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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 every-
 where 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:

SANCTUS from the Communion Service in C and F

C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)

(Sung by the choir)

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

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.

AGNUS S-158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

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.

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 ANTHEM *A child is born in Bethlehem* Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia!

Therefore rejoice, Jerusalem, Alleluia!

He lies within a manger small, Alleluia!

Who now on high reigns over all, Alleluia!

From eastern lands there came three kings, Alleluia!

Gold, incense, myrrh, the gifts they bring, Alleluia!

They entered slowly, one by one, Alleluia!

And worshipped there, God's only Son, Alleluia!

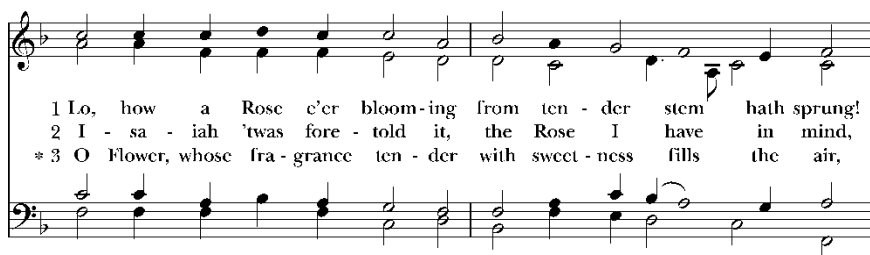
And so on this most blessed day, Alleluia!

We praise the Lord and sing alway, Alleluia!

So to the Father and the Son, Alleluia!

The Holy Spirit, Three in One, Alleluia!

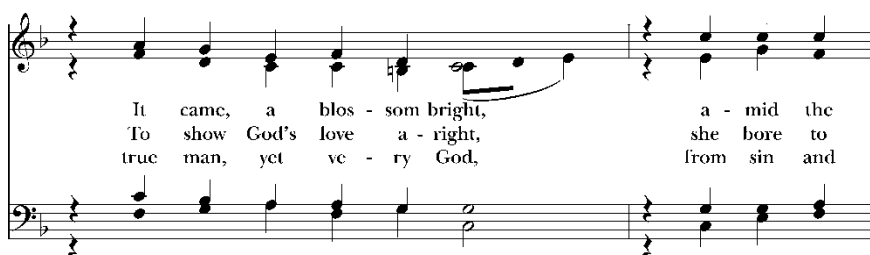
COMMUNION HYMN #81 *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - cage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

COMMUNION HYMN #109 *The first Nowell the angel did say*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far;
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star where - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

*Alternative Refrain
Descant (others unison)*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Hesley Willan (1880-1968). Alternative setting with descant, Copyright © 1926, by Oxford University Press, Inc.

Lighting of the candles

HYMN 111 *Silent night, holy night*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - dian beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

POST-COMMUNION 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 *Book of Occasional Services*

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.**

Please stand and blow out your candles before the singing of Hark! The herald angels sing.

CLOSING HYMN #87 *Hark! the herald angels sing*

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

DISMISSAL

Seminarian: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE Postlude on *Adeste Fideles* Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

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*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!*

The cover picture is by Connie Townsend and can be found here:
<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/o-holy-night-connie-townsend.html>

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant:	The Rev. Brett R. Johnson
Seminarian Intern:	Karen Aalto
Organist & Music Director	Luca Cantone
Lector:	Jen Miles
Litanist:	Elizabeth Downs
Eucharistic Ministers:	Karen Aalto and Paul LaSpina
Altar Guild:	Faith Hodgkins and Carol Johnson
Ushers:	Dawn Jackson and Eddie Parsons
Christ Candle Lighters:	Lizzy Barr and Lindsey Perry
Streaming Coordinator:	Pete McCann
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.*

HEALING PRAYER OFFERED TONIGHT

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.



Join us tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. for our Christmas Day service followed by coffee hour hosted by Rev. Brett and Dave.

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



On Sunday, January 4th 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!



Join us **Tuesday, January 6th 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.

THE NEXT DREAM



A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT MORE THAN 1 MILLION TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FAMILIES
ACROSS THE U.S. WHO ARE IN DANGER OF DEPORTATION AND FAMILY SEPARATION

A Film By

Steve Marx

Laura Bean

Vahdat Yeganeh

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 6:30-8 PM

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 5 Bryant Street, Wakefield, MA 01880



Middlesex County TPS Committee



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

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 eecw@verizon.net 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



OUR MISSION:

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



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.

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.

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



Emmanuel Episcopal Church

5 Bryant Street Wakefield MA 01880
www.EmmanuelWakefield.org