

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Wakefield, Massachusetts

The Second Sunday of Advent



December 7, 2025
10:00 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. Most Sundays, we have childcare for the littlest ones alongside our Kids’ Club in their special place off the Parish Hall. We encourage your children to gather with their peers there, guided by our team of leaders. Once a month, usually the first Sunday, our children join us in the sanctuary to lead us as ushers and readers and assist Rev. Brett at the altar during Communion.

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 Advent chorales from the Orgelbüchlein, BWV 600 & 601
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #65 *Prepare the way, O Zion*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Ring wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

O ANTIPHON III: O Radix Jesse (Choir)

*O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.
- Isaiah 11:10; 45:14; 52:15; Romans 15:12*

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Santarelli Family

Celebrant: You know what time it is. A voice has cried out from the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord." It is time to make things ready, in our lives and in our world, for the Word to be flesh again. It is time to prepare to live as God showed the ancestors of our faith, through the teaching of the prophets and the stories we have passed down until now. Prepare to make all things ready, for Christ to be born in our hearts again, that we might remember who we are, who God intends us to be. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Light the first and second candle

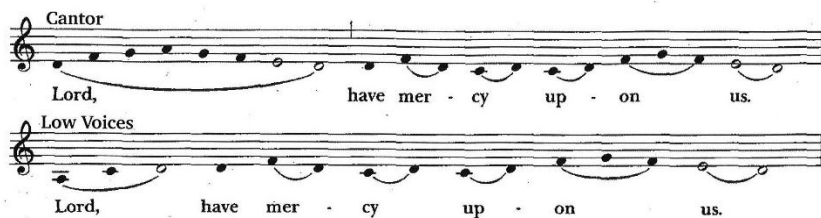
Family: God of our Ancestors, we repent of where we have gone astray. Help us to listen to the voice that cries out from the wildernesses, the margins of our world. Help us to listen to Your voice call us to prepare for justice, Your voice that calls us into the hard work of reparation, Your voice that calls us to pursue the path of peace. **Amen.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One
People You come to your people and set them free.

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.

KYRIE# S92



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

High Voices

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ,

have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy

Low Voices

up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

High Voices

on us. Lord, have mer - cy

All

up - on us. Lord,

have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: From *Missa Marialis*; Mode 1; Mass 9, "Cum jubilo"; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 11:1-10

Lorelai Santarelli

In an old stump of a tree, like the family tree of Jesse, there will be a new green shoot, and the shoot will grow into a branch. The branch will be the Messiah, and the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him. He will be wise and understanding. He will be strong and confident and know and love the ways of God. He won't judge a person by what he hears about them or by what they look like. He will see poor people through God's eyes, and will always be on the side of the powerless people. The wicked people had better watch out when he's around. He'll wear goodness and faithfulness like we wear coats and hats. Amazing things will happen – wolves will be friends with little lambs. Leopards will get along with the goats. Calves and lions will play together. And a little child will be in charge of them all. Cows and bears will share the pasture. And their babies will take naps side by side. Lions will eat hay like oxen do. Babies will play with snakes and the snakes won't bite them. There won't be any pain anymore, and all the earth will be covered with knowing God, just like the waters of the sea cover the earth. And that branch from Jesse's family tree will be a hero to all the people of the earth. Kings will wonder who he is, and wherever the Messiah is, that place will be beautiful.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

The Psalm will be sung by the congregation and choir.

Antiphon

By God's gift shall justice and peace flourish

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 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

Antiphon (all)

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

Antiphon (all)

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Antiphon (all)

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 15:4-13

Jillian Santarelli

The words written by people long ago were written to keep our spirits up. I pray that God who gives us encouragement can help you live peacefully with each other, like Jesus would want you to. I pray that all of us can someday sing one happy song to God, who is Jesus' father and father of us all. Be kind and welcome each other, just as Jesus welcomed you. Jesus became a servant of all of us, so that each of us could see who he is. Not all of us were born into faith, but all

of us are welcomed into it. Everyone is welcome – people who have believed a long time, as well as you newcomers. I pray that God fills you full of joy and peace as you believe more and more, so that you are drenched in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #76 vss. 1,2&5 *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 3:1-12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

O ANTIPHON V: O Oriens (Choir)

*O Morning Star, splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death.
- Malachi 4:2*

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

These prayers were thoughtfully written by our Kids' Club and are in their words. In order to be inclusive, we ask that you respond verbally and with gestures to each prayer by saying:

We hold them in our hearts [place your hands over your hearts], and we lift them up to you, God [lift your hands up in the air].

Now, Let us pray

God, we pray that we can all put our hearts in the church to help those in need and that all people can feel accepted and welcomed in God's image.

We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them up to you, God.

We pray that those in authority in our nation deeply think about their actions and the consequences before making decisions. We pray that we may become a country of peace over violence.

We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them up to you, God.

God, We pray for those under attack in zones of danger and those who experience genocide and persecution in daily life. That you may protect them and help us to do the same.

We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them up to you, God.

We pray for those in our community who don't have resources, those who are sick and in hospitals, those who have been wrong and those experiencing loneliness and thoughts of unworthiness. May we make visible those who are often forgotten.

We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them up to you, God.

God, we pray for those who suffer, that they may find goodness, happiness, and peace even in their suffering.

We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them up to you, God.

We pray for the people we love who have died. We look forward to seeing them in heaven.

We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them up to you, God.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, mercifully accept the prayers of all your children. May they know they are cherished by you and by all here at Emmanuel.

We hold them in our hearts, and we lift them up to you, God.

CONFESSION *Enriching Our Worship*

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Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

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

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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

Nikki Nash-MacIsaac, Vestry Member

THE OFFERTORY

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

All children are invited to come forward and help Rev. Brett with Eucharist.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *The Yearning*

Craig Courtney

*There is a yearning in hearts weighed down
by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.*

*There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide
and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.*

*There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One,
the Firstborn of creation.*

*There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,
and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.*

*There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those
who wait the day of His appearing.*

*There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the
One who placed within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.*

DOXOLOGY (all singing) HYMN #60 verse 6

***To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 –

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.**

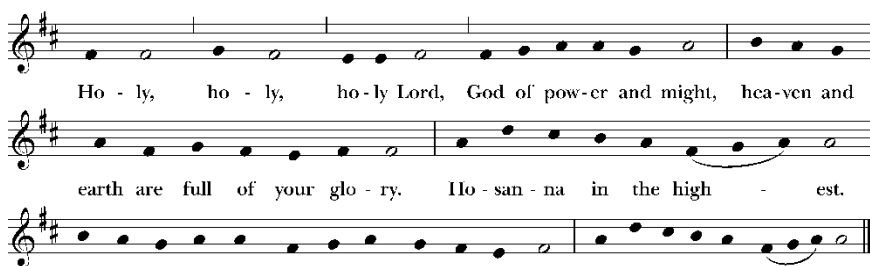
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS #S124



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave us your son Jesus, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of

hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, (Lord's Prayer,
Contemporary)

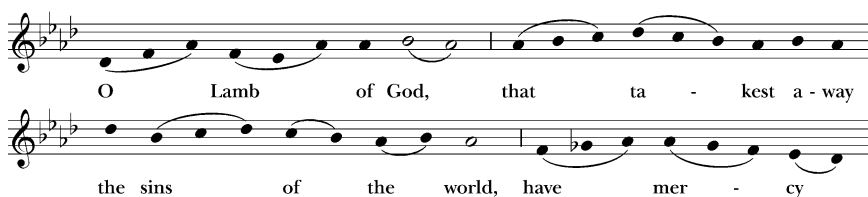
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

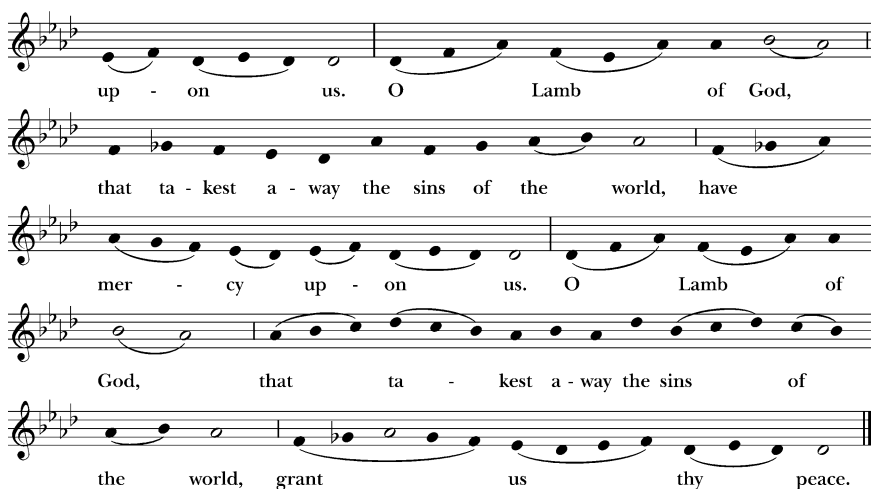
BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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 #S159





Music: From *Missa Marialis*; Plainsong, Mode 5; Mass 9; adapt. and acc. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Setting:
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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 HYMN #54 *Savior of the nations, come*



1	Sa - vior	of	the	na - tions,	come!	Vir - gin's
2	Won - drous	birth!	Oh,	won - drous	child	of the
3	Thus	on	earth	the	Word	ap - pears,
4	Come,	O	Fa - ther's	sav - ing	Son,	who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your
 heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

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May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God the Creator, the Christ, and the Giver of Life be with you and all you love. **Amen.**

O ANTIPHON IV: O Clavis David (Choir)

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
 you open and no one can shut;
 you shut and no one can open:
 Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
 those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
 - Isaiah 22:22; 42:7

CLOSING HYMN #75 *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a—
 2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God— en - du - reth, the—

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst— of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The—
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they— per - ish, like
 feed his— flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions shall— pass like a dream— a - way;
 lead them, and— bring them— safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

DISMISSAL

Seminarian: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Variations on *Winchester New* David Lasky (b. 1957)

**Please join us after the service for coffee hour in the parish hall
hosted by Dawn Jackson and Michelle Toppi.**

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
Lectors:	Lorelai Santarelli and Jillian Santarelli
Litanists:	The Kids' Club
Eucharistic Ministers:	Paul LaSpina and Eddie Parsons
Altar Guild:	Faith Hodgkins and Carol Johnson
Usher:	Dawn Jackson
Advent Wreath Lighters:	The Santarelli Family
Vestry Greeter:	Nikki Nash-MacIsaac
Streaming Coordinator:	Kim Collins
YouTube Editor:	Kim Collins
YouTube Scheduler:	Denise Mallen



*The flowers decorating our altar are given to the glory of God and in loving
memory of Bernie Hutchens, Hylie Wilburt Hutchens, Sr. and Helen
Hutchens Alexander, Donna Loard, and Lee Hutchens by Vicky Hutchens.*

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 during communion and after the service.

EMMANUEL 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, Gwen, Louise Haldeman, Lester Hartman, Heidi, Karen Dodd Howard, JD, Jack Jephson, Ted Jobe, Ginny Johnson, Jordan, Judy, Mike & Tim Kelsey, Sean Kenney, 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, PJ, Dustin Pollard, Mo Pollman, Susan Quinn, Tony R., Rebecca, Timothy Springer, Trudy, Vanessa, Amy Walsh, Bill & Jan Walsh, and Kelly Wood.

10:00 AM COFFEE HOSTS NEEDED

We are looking for 10:00 a.m. coffee hour hosts **on December 14th and December 28th**. If you can help host, please let Colleen Moran (colleenm781@gmail.com) or Lisa in the church office know or sign-up on the sheet on the table in the parish hall.

AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU:

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

WAKEFIELD FOOD PANTRY

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During Advent, a vestry member will be sharing the weekly announcements with you. This is an opportunity for you to get to know who we are. The vestry is the leadership body of the church – we are here for you! If you have any questions, please, find us and ask!

Co-Wardens: Kim Collins and Beth Martin

Treasurer: Aimee Forsythe

Clerk: Amy Walsh

Members: Dawn Jackson, Laurel Martino, Jeff Melville, Nikki Nash-MacIsaac, Debra Plummer and Andrea Sullivan.

KINDNESS ROCK GARDEN BLESSING & PAINTING PARTY

JOIN US TODAY after the 10:00 a.m. service, we will be blessing the rock garden and then stay for coffee hour where you can paint your own rocks to add to the garden! We are hoping to create a robust number so that we can also put them in pastoral care bags. Art experience is not necessary, positivity required!

The Kids' Club has been hard at work creating messages of positivity to fill the garden that will go beneath the food pantry. All community members will be invited to leave what they can and take what they need, whether it be food or positivity.



Kids Korner

Important Dates:

Sunday December 7th: Intergenerational Service

Blessing of the Kindness Rock Garden

Kindness Rocks Painting Party!

Friday December 19th @ 5:30pm: Christmas Cookie decorating with Jessica (and you!)

Sunday December 28th: No Church School (Christmas/Winter vacation)

Announcements:

We are spending this month getting special crafts ready to add to Pastoral care bags as we continue to work to spread Jesus' light to others in our community! We are looking forward to learning about the Advent season and celebrating through cookie decorating and songs. Please join us on December 19th for some Kids Club fun and help us spread Christmas cheer!

JOIN US TONIGHT!

Choral Evensong

Join us for a peaceful evening service of candlelight, music, scripture, and prayer. Choral Evensong is an ancient Anglican tradition — a gentle way to end the day in stillness and beauty.

Sunday, December 7th

5:00 PM

All are welcome.

Free & open to the public.

www.emmanuelwakefield.org

Magnificat Boston will join with Emmanuel's choir to offer a choral Evensong at Emmanuel. Magnificat Boston sings at Episcopal churches throughout the Diocese of Massachusetts offering ministry through beautiful choral music. It is truly a special treat to participate in worship bolstered by the glorious music Magnificat Boston offers. Reception to follow.



NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Luca Cantone, Organist and Music Director

Careful observers will notice that the word "Evensong" is not found in our Book of Common Prayer, despite our advocacy of its traditional Anglican and Episcopal bona fides! This is a quirk of history.

"Evensong" was the name given for the Evening Prayer liturgy—that is to say, Thomas Cranmer's admixture of the Catholic Vespers and Compline offices—in the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. In later books, that name was dropped, but it remains a term of affection for Evening Prayer when it is sung—either chanted, or sung by a choir.

This liturgy and its music anchor my calling as a church musician; between the ages of nine and fourteen, I sang Evensong four evenings a week during the academic year while a chorister at St. Thomas, New York.

While my "classroom" Biblical and catechetical literacy was (and remains) lesser than I'd wish, my exposure to the Prayer Book spirituality of Evensong—through-reading of Old Testament books, repetition of set prayers in varying musical settings, and the hieratic language of prayer that is our Anglican heritage in Coverdale's Psalms, Cranmer's Collects, and the King James Version of the Bible—gave me a sense of what it is to be a Christian, and won me to the Church.

Choral Evensong, as we've received it, is a confluence of several streams of liturgical history: the sung offices of Medieval monasticism, Reformation emphases on daily public prayer and Scripture reading in the vernacular, and choral music from the Anglican golden ages of the 16th century and the turn of the 20th, the latter coming on the heels of the Gothic Revival and Oxford Movement, which are responsible for Evensong's timeless aesthetic context.

It is a living tradition, with composers continuing to apply their art to the call-and-response Preces and Responses, the Anglican chant Psalmody, and the Gospel canticle dyad (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) which are the musical core of the liturgy.

In the great English and Welsh Cathedrals, children and adults continue to offer Evensong daily to pilgrims from near and far. While in the United States there are few churches offering it frequently (St. Thomas and Washington National Cathedral being major exceptions), parishes and cathedrals mark special occasions throughout the year with Evensong, finding it a wellspring of Anglican identity, and a complementary setting to the Sunday morning Eucharist for worshippers to "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the Scriptures, in Cranmer's immortal words.

This Sunday evening at Emmanuel, let us open together this liturgical treasure-house, as we pray once more: "O Lord, open thou our lips..."

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVENT OFFERING THIS YEAR:



PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

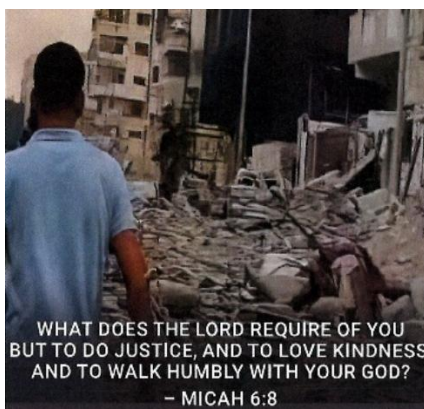
Please Support the Middle East Fund

Your gift to the **Middle East Fund** will support the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem as they offer ongoing emergency and mental health services as well as access to education to those impacted by the current crisis in Gaza and the West Bank. Through your generosity, we are able to provide critical support as our partners adapt to changing needs in the region.

Amidst the crisis in the region, we are working with the Diocese of Jerusalem to provide healthcare and education services. Our partnership provides healthcare facilities with emergency supplies to care for patients in critical need. We also help families overcome economic challenges by paying school fees for children in Nablus and Jerusalem.

"The work of the Diocese is good news despite everything: a beacon of hope in a time of trouble," said the Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, archbishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Thank you for your compassion and prayers. With your partnership, we are Working Together for Lasting Change.





Our journey through Advent continues Monday evening at 7:15 pm on Zoom. Using *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton we'll continue our walk through Advent focusing on Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This week we will be discussing Chapter 4 and Luke 2:1-7. Reading the book is not required, but it is a fascinating read. All are welcome!

This week we have a special guest, The Rev. Manny Faria, who many of you know from his visits to Emmanuel. He has been to the Holy Land several times and will give us a closer look at what Mary and Joseph faced on their journeys. We are so pleased that he accepted our invitation to join us.

Blue Christmas

A gentle space to breathe, remember, and rest in God's love during a tender season.

"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts."
— Romans 5:5

Wednesday
December 10th
at 7pm



Emmanuel Episcopal Church 5 Bryant Street, Wakefield MA 01880



THURSDAY, DEC 11TH
DINNER AT 6:00 PM
PROGRAM AT 6:45 PM

Learn how to make
Anglican
Prayer Beads!

with Mary Muir,
Nikki Nash-McIsaac and
Nicole Russo DeSouza



Join us for our December Soul Supper as we share a warm meal, gentle conversation, and an invitation into a meaningful spiritual practice.

Together we'll learn the history of Anglican prayer beads, how they are used in prayer and contemplation, and how this ancient rhythm can help quiet the mind and open the heart during the holiday season.

We'll each create our own prayer bead bracelet – and make a few extra to share with others who may need comfort, hope, or a reminder they are not alone.

Free & open to all.

No experience needed – just bring your curiosity and your heart.

Please RSVP to eecw@verizon.net
Emmanuel Episcopal Church Wakefield MA

Please let the office know if you plan to attend or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Also, if you can contribute an item for the dinner, please let Nicole Russo or the office know. Thank you!

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



PARISH SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

Sunday, December 7	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
	11:00 AM	Kindness Rock Garden Blessing & Painting
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour
	5:00 PM	Evensong with Magnificat
Monday, December 8	6:00 PM	Grief Support Group
	7:15 PM	Advent Book Study on Zoom
Tuesday, December 9	12 Noon	Wakefield Interfaith Clergy
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, Dec. 10	4:00 PM	Canterbury Exec. Comm.
	7:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, December 11		Office closed
	6:00 PM	Soul Supper
Saturday, December 13	1:00 PM	Rainbow Recovery Meeting
Sunday, December 14	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
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour
	11:30 AM	Pop-Up Bible Study

Please note: The church office we be closed on Thursday, December 11th.

Cover art can be found at:

<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/advent-season-jutta-maria-pusl.html>



YEAR A: INTRODUCTION TO LECTIONARY AND GOSPEL OF MATTHEW – DECEMBER 14, 2025

Welcome to Year A! We are Emmanuel, “God is with us!” Say it over and over and know the presence of God in everything you do.
Where does this come from?

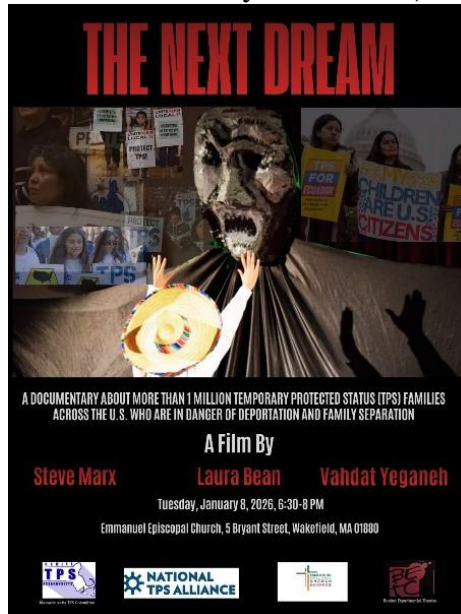
They shall call his name Emmanuel, which means God is with us. (Mt. 1:23)

Come join Seminarian Karen Aalto and Rev. Brett to explore what the lectionary cycle is (spoiler, we are now in Year A) and be introduced to the Gospel of Matthew (the primary Gospel of Year A)!

Perfect for newcomers and longtime members alike. No prep needed—just curiosity and 45 minutes. Coffee provided!

"I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt. 28:20)

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 8, 2026



A Blessing for the Kindness Rock Garden

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, who from the stone that the builders rejected has made the cornerstone of our salvation, we give you thanks for all your creation, even these humble stones and we dedicate these painted rocks as small yet precious signs of your steadfast love.

As Episcopal priest and activist Christina Rathbone said, "it is the small things that are somehow also everything." May this Kindness Rock Garden, alongside our Little Free Pantry, provide the small messages of hope and love that others may be seeking. Bless those who come here seeking comfort, both physical and emotional, and bless those of us who are fortunate enough to provide what we can to our community.

Guide us always in finding our small acts of kindness and in spreading your light, that we may dispel the darkness. May all who pause here find encouragement, know they are loved, and carry that love forward into the world.

May the God who creates all things beautiful, the Son who is our rock and redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who moves in our midst, ✠ bless this garden and all who encounter it, now and forever.

Amen.





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.

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