

Saint Paul's Parish

174 Whisconier Road

Brookfield, CT 06804

(Episcopal/Anglican) (203) 775-9587 (Office) www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Preacher & Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite One

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us this morning.

We pray you experience the presence and love of Christ

as we worship together!

Saint Paul's Staff

Priest-in-Charge Wardens Vestry Members: The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee Lois Hunt, and Dan Bacon (Acting Warden) Chuck Allen-Treasurer, David Williams-Clerk, Beth Beck, Bill Bennett, Jeff Chowanec, Geoff Dent, JoAnn Hornak, Mike Kirner, Ned Marcalus, Diane Peterson, Bob Picheco, Bill Schrull

Organist and Choirmaster Sunday School Administrator Kirsten Peterson Julie Astbury

Welcome & Announcements

The Lighting of Four Candles on the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent

wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE; the third candle is JOY; and the fourth candle is LOVE.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one

another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one

another. John 12:34

All: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our

hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus

Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.

All stand as able

Processional Hymn "O come, O come, Emmanuel" <u>Hymnal 56</u>

(Verses 1-4)

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may read one of the following sentences

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from

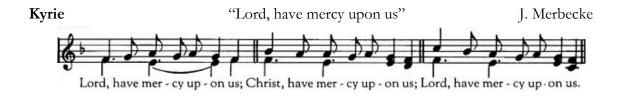
whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the

inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily

magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray together. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your

daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

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

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

Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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

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

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

Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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

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

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

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

Gospel Response

"The angel Gabriel from heaven came"

Hymnal 265

(Verses 1-2)

(Please stand as able for the Gospel)

The Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. **People:** Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Gospel Response

"The angel Gabriel from heaven came" (Verses 3-4)

Hymnal 265

The Sermon

The Rev. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

The Nicene Creed (Please Stand As Able)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For all ministers, that they may faithfully preach and teach the Gospel; for

the hearts of the young to be opened to hear and heed the Lord's call to his ministry; and for all church workers in their various vocations, that they may

serve us well in God's name, let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For faith and humility to receive the virgin-born Son of God in the signs

where he is promised to be found: his Holy Word and Sacraments, let us

pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For fathers, that like Joseph, they may be honorable and just men; that God

would give them wisdom, patience, pride of duty and, above all, faith and

loyalty to his Word; and that, knowing the heavenly Father's true

guardianship, they may head their households with godly forbearance, let us

pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For our nation and its leaders, that the Lord would bear patiently with this

land despite its tiresome flattery and unbelief; that God would clear away all empty shows of piety; and that he would renew genuine faith in the Virgin's Son, that his return may not be a sign against us, let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For healing for the sick, shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, relief

to the suffering, peace to the dying and comfort to those who mourn, that they would be sustained in all adversity and given patience and courage as

they await the unfolding of the Lord's healing grace

(Please add your own intercessions or thanksgivings out loud or in the silence of your heart.)

Intercessor: Let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For all who eat today this feast of joy, that in the Savior's body and blood

we may be granted a blessed foretaste of the feast to come for the

strengthening of our faith and the growth of our love, let us pray to the

Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

Celebrant:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give you thanks for your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the dayspring from on high and the splendor of light everlasting. By his coming in the flesh and by his blessed Word, enlighten our hearts with the Gospel, enlighten the hearts of those who sit in the darkness of unbelief with the light of saving faith, and enlighten those who dwell in the shadow of death with the certain hope of the resurrection through him. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving his advent in the flesh, we may always confess him and remain watchful for his advent in glory at the last day; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant:

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Silence may be kept.

All:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3-16*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

All stand as able for hymns

Offertory Hymn

"Jesus! Name of wondrous love!"

Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name all other names above! Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told, Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen sons of earth, For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall his people save."

Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy child When the cup of human woe First he tasted here below.

Jesus! Only Name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n, Whereby man, to sin enslaved, Bursts his fetters and is saved.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Human name of God above; Pleading only this we flee Helpless, O our God, to thee.

> Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897); Music: St. Bees, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(Remain standing as able)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

People: It is meet and right so to do.

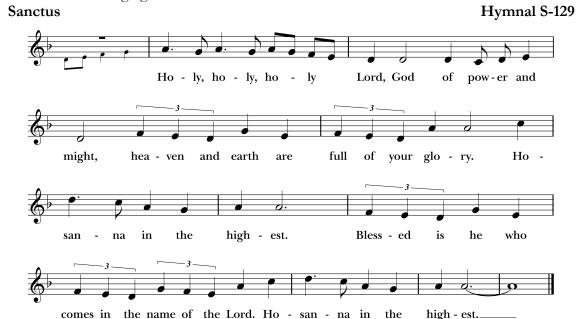
Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and

in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world,

we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and

singing:



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom

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

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: Agnus Dei







O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is

under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may

evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that

Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with

thanksgiving.

Please follow the ushers directions for receiving the Eucharist at the altar rail.

Let an usher know if you prefer to remain seated at your pew for distribution of the Bread and Wine.

Communion Hymn "How bright appears the Morning Star" Hymnal 497

Communion Hymn "Once he came in blessing" <u>Hymnal 53</u>

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that

thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without

end. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness

from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"O come, O come, Emmanuel" (Verses 5-8)

Hymnal 56

Dismissal

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude "How Bright Appears the Morning Star"

Johann Christoph Bach



"Celebrating 240 years in the Spirit"

St. Paul's Christmas Calendar

Wednesday, December 24th 10 am - Holy Baptism

5 pm - Family Christmas Eve Service

9 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25th 9 am - Christmas Day Service

HIGHLIGHTS:

Children's Christmas Pageant - Will be this morning during the 10:30 service.

Salvation Army - The Salvation Army kettles are here again this week. The proceeds go to the Human Services Department in our town, who reviews those who have "critical and urgent needs" that cannot be met through other funding sources.

Christmas Flowers - Anyone wishing to remember loved ones and friends with a poinsettia plant that will be decorating the church for the Christmas services may do so by filling out one of the envelopes on the table at the back of the church; send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact David Szen. All Christmas memorials are due today to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Quilt Drawing - Once again, in time for Christmas our Quilters are holding their annual drawing. Come to coffee hour to check out this year's Christmas themed masterpiece quilts, lovingly made by our award winning quilters. Tickets will be available after the service in Crocker Hall. The drawing will be held during coffee hour.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Adult Advent Series - Is looking at the six major streams of faith and practice that define Christian tradition. Based on Richard Foster's landmark book, "Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith," let's learn together how the great traditions of the Church can deepen our faith and shape us into people who live, love, and serve like Jesus. The class starts at 9:30 am each Sunday in the Guild Room.

UPCOMING:

Coats & Socks Drive - During the winter months we collect used coats and new socks (preferably white) to benefit the various agencies in Danbury supported by the Jericho Partnership. Leave the coats on the rack and socks in the basket in the back of the church.

End of Year Donations - All money to be credited to your 2025 account MUST be in the Parish Office by December 31st. Any money received after December 31st will be credited to your 2026 account.

Potential Tax Savings - If you meet the following requirements, your normal donation to Saint Paul's can result in a tax savings for you. This program is called "A Qualified Charitable Distribution." The two requirements are: 1) The contributor must be 70 years and 6 months old. 2) A retirement account must already be in place. This can be an IRA or a 401K account. For further information contact Jim Miller at (203) 426-4022 or Chuck Allen at stpaulstreasurer@charter.net.

12 Days of Christmas - Be sure to checkout our brochure for the complete schedule of events as we worship, celebrate, fellowship, outreach, reflect & discover the entire Christmas season.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO:

Covenant Envelopes - for 2026 are in the back of the church. Please take yours and those of any friends who may be absent, as this helps us save on mailing costs. Please do not use the 2026 goldenrod envelopes until the new year, and do not use the 2025 green envelopes after December 31, 2025; otherwise it will be credited to your 2026 account. If you do not wish to use the covenant envelopes, as long as your gift can be identified, an account is established in your name and you will receive quarterly statements. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Gurski, Financial Secretary, or the Parish Office at 203-775-9587. Thank you.

Name Tags - Please be courteous to fellow parishioners, newcomers, Bishop Ahrens, and guests by extending a warm welcome to them and by wearing your name tag. You can leave them in the baskets at the doors as you leave for refiling. And remember to wear them to coffee hour.

Please Use Microphone - When making announcements, please use the lectern or the handheld microphone. Even though you think you have a strong voice, people watching online or in the back of the church cannot hear you.

Coffee Gathering - Following this service, join us downstairs in Crocker Hall for coffee.

Sunday School - Sunday School classes start at 10:40 am. During advent bring your children directly into church with you for the lighting of the Advent Candles after which they will be directed to their classrooms. Children will return to their parent or guardian before the start of Communion.

Our Daily Bread - The *Our Daily Bread* devotional pamphlet for December, January & February is now available at the back of the church. E-mail <u>dszen@yahoo.com</u> to have a copy mailed to you. *Our Daily Bread* contains a scripture verse and meditation for each day.

The Priest-in-Charge Weekly - Fr. Nate has a weekly e-mail, "The Priest-in-Charge Weekly," to communicate things directly from his desk to yours. If you did not receive his e-mail this week and would like to, write Fr. Nate at priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com and let him know.

Our Facilities - Our restrooms are located downstairs at the rear of our parish hall. Take the stairway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. The restrooms are located on the far left, across from the kitchen. A play area for our young ones is also set up in the parish hall as well as live streaming and audio of the service on a wide screen TV. In addition, coloring book packages are available for youngsters to use in the pews. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

Calendar For The Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

(Check website for up to date Zoom links - www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

Sun., Dec 21	8:00 am -	Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	9:30 am -	Adult Class, Guild Room
	10:30 am -	Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	10:40 am -	Sunday School
Mon., Dec 22	7:00 pm -	Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall (YouTube Live)
Tue., Dec 23	9:30 am -	Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
Wed., Dec 24	10:00 am -	Holy Baptism & Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	11 - Noon -	Drive Thru Food Collection #149
	5:00 pm -	Family Christmas Eve Service (YouTube Live)
	9:00 pm -	Traditional Christmas Eve Service (YouTube Live)
Thu., Dec 25	9:00 am -	Christmas Day Service (YouTube Live)
Fri., Dec 26	10:00 am -	St. Paul's Walking Group, Fairfield Hills, Newtown
	6:00 pm -	12 Days: Pizza & Game Night, Crocker Hall
Sat., Dec 27	7:30 am -	John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
	8:00 am -	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall
	10:00 am -	PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall
	6:00 pm -	12 Days: "Hot Dogs & Holiday Lights"
Sun., Dec 28	8:00 am -	Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	9:30 am -	Adult Class, Guild Room
	10:30 am -	Sunday School
	10:30 am -	Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
		12 Days: "Holy Land Revisited," Guild Room (Zoom)



Next Sunday - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

8:00 am & 10:30 am Preacher: Rev. Randy Greve

Readings for January 4th

<u>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</u> - <u>Psalm 147</u> - <u>Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7</u> - <u>John 1:1-18</u>

