



Saint Paul's Parish

174 Whisconier Road

Brookfield, CT 06804

(Episcopal/Anglican)

(203) 775-9587 (Office)

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 4, 2026

Preacher & Celebrant ~ The Rev. John Morrison

10:30 am - Holy Eucharist

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:

Organist and Choirmaster

Sunday School Administrator

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

Kirsten Peterson

Julie Astbury

Welcome & Announcements

All stand as able

Processional Hymn

“Angels, from the realms of glory”

[Hymnal 93](#)

The Word of the Lord

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: The Word of life which was from the beginning

All: we proclaim to you.

Celebrant: The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining;

All: the Word of life which was from the beginning.

Celebrant: That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes, and touched with our own hands,

All: we proclaim to you.

Celebrant: For our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: The Word of life which was from the beginning we proclaim to you.

Opening Praise

“At your name”

At your name

Endless praise

The mountains shake and crumble

Yahweh, Yahweh

At Your name

We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

The oceans roar and tumble

At Your name

At Your name angels will bow

The morning breaks in glory

The earth will rejoice

At Your name

Your people cry out

Creation sings Your story

Chorus 1

At your name angels will bow

Lord of all the earth we shout Your name

The Earth will rejoice

Shout Your name

Your people cry out

Filling up the skies with endless praise

There is no one like our God
We will praise You praise You
There's no one like our God
We will sing we will sing
There is no one like our God
We will praise You praise You
There's no one like our God
We will sing, we will sing

*Lord of all the earth
we'll shout Your name
Shout Your name
Filling up the skies with endless praise
Endless praise
Yahweh Yahweh
We love to shout Your name oh Lord*

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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together. **O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings

The Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

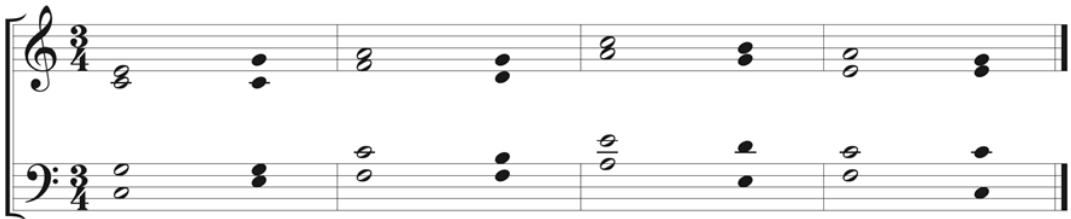
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84



How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of *hosts!* *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living **God.**

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her *young*; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my *God*.

Happy are they who dwell in your *house*! *
they will always be *praising you*.

Happy are the people whose strength is *in you*! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' *way*.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of *springs*, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of *water*.

They will climb from height to *height*, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in *Zion*.

LORD God of hosts, hear my *prayer*; *
hearken, O God of *Jacob*.

Behold our defender, O *God*; *
and look upon the face of your A-*nointed*.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own *room*, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the *wicked*.

For the LORD God is both sun and *shield*; *
he will give grace and *glory*;

No good thing will the LORD with-*hold* *
from those who walk with in-*tegrity*.

O LORD of *hosts*, *
happy are they who put their trust in *you*!

Glory be to the Father, and to the *Son*, *
and to the Holy *Spirit*:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever *shall be*, *
world without end. A-*men*.

The Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the

foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response

“O Christ, the Word Incarnate”

[Hymnal 632](#)

(Verses 1 - 2)

(Please stand as able for the Gospel)

The Gospel

John 1:19-51

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

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

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw

the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

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

Gospel Response

“O Christ, the Word Incarnate”
(Verse 3)

[Hymnal 632](#)

The Sermon

The Rev. John Morrison

The Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

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

Please stand, sit, or kneel as able for the prayers.

Officiant: We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have called us to be saints together. As we grow in our faith in your Body, the church, fill us with your spiritual gifts, that we may not be lacking in zeal or courage.

Intercessor: Lord Jesus, you call us, like Andrew and Peter, to "Come and See." Open our ears to hear your gentle invitation in the everyday moments of our lives. Give us courage to leave our nets, our doubts, and our old ways to follow you, truly seeing you as the Messiah.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Intercessor: Father, we pray for our church to be a place where seekers find you. Help us, like Philip, to invite others to experience Jesus, even when they are skeptical (like Nathanael). May our lives and fellowship be a clear witness to your welcoming love.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Intercessor: Jesus, Lamb of God, you see us, even under the fig tree of our private struggles. Thank you for knowing us fully. Reveal your glory to us, Lord. Help us move beyond just hearing about you to truly seeing you as the Son of God, the King of Israel, and the connection between heaven and earth.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Intercessor: Holy Spirit, as you showed Jesus to Nathanael, open our eyes to see greater things. Break down our cynicism and fill us with wonder. Help us to believe, to understand, and to witness to the divine connection you offer, so we might see angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Intercessor: Heavenly Father, we pray for peace on earth, knowing that greater things than even Jacob's ladder are revealed in Jesus. Forgive our doubts and focus our hearts on the salvation and glory you promise. Equip us to live as your people, anticipating your Son's return and experiencing your presence daily.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Intercessor: We bring before you those whom we know need healing, hope, and heavenly help. As we name them in our hearts or aloud, touch them, and us with your presence

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

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers:

Celebrant: Father, give us more desire to live fruitful lives for your glory. May we see more clearly what it takes to be your disciple. Help us to hear your call on our lives and equip us to respond appropriately. Hear these prayers and strengthen us to be bearers of your light and love to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Offertory Praise

“God with Us”

| | |
|---|--|
| Oh, You've come to bring peace to be Love, To be nearer to us. You've come to bring life to be Light, To shine brighter in us. Oh, Emmanuel, God with us. | And, You've come to take sin to bear shame, And to conquer the grave. Oh, Emmanuel, God with us. |
|---|--|

Chorus
Our Deliverer, You are Savior,
In Your presence we find our strength.
Over ev'rything our Redemption,
God with us, You are God with us.

Oh, You've come to be Hope to this world,
For Your honor and name.

Chorus

You are here, You are holy,
We are standing in Your glory (Lord).
Repeat 3X

Chorus 2X

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Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

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

You may stand or kneel.

Celebrant: 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

All: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

Celebrant: 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 St. Paul and 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.

All: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,
All: **Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day 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 forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread A brief silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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 Praise

“Be lifted up”

Chorus 1

Be lifted up be lifted up

As we bow down be lifted up (Repeat)

Let the heavens rejoice

Let the nations be glad

Let the whole earth tremble

For You are God

Come and worship the Lord

In the beauty of holiness

As we bow down be lifted up

As we bow down be lifted up

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Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly King, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“As with gladness men of old”

[Hymnal 119](#)

Dismissal

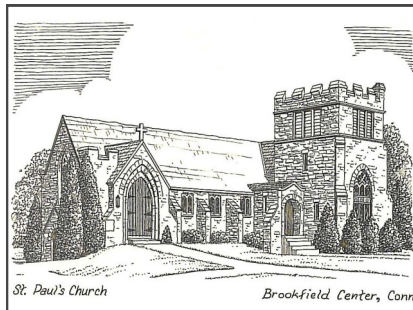
Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

“The People Who in Darkness Walked”

Healy Wilan



"Celebrating 240 years in the Spirit"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS:

12 Days of Christmas Update

- **House Blessing** - Join us tomorrow at 7 pm at the home of Andrea & Brian White at 9 Dairy Farm Drive, Brookfield for a House Blessing that includes Holy Eucharist, dessert and fellowship. Directions and maps are available at the back of the church.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Drive-Thru Food Collection - Our next Drive-Thru Food Collection will be this Wednesday, January 7th from 11 am to noon. This will be our 150th food drive since we started doing them in April 2020!

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. 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.

Altar Flowers - If you would like to request Altar flowers for a particular Sunday please see the **2026 Flower Chart** in the back of the church, fill out an envelope located in the back of the church, send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact the parish office.

UPCOMING:

Adult Class - *Being Real – The Power of Vulnerability and Transparency* is the title of our next Adult Christian Formation series starting January 11. Perhaps when you hear the word vulnerability or transparency you get uncomfortable. However, the only way we can grow as Christians and be authentic believers is to recognize what we truly need and be open to God and to others. When it comes to transparency, God is not asking us to do something that He hasn't already done himself! Please join us in the Guild Room at 9:30 am for this intriguing and challenging 5-part series."

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO:

Name Tags - Please be courteous to fellow parishioners, newcomers, visiting clergy, 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 or giving testimonies, 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.

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.

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

Sunday School - Sunday School classes start at 10:30 am. Please bring your children directly to their classrooms. Children will return to their parent or guardian before the start of Communion.

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., Jan 4 8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)
 10:30 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
 10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)
- Mon., Jan 5 7:00 pm - *12 DAYS*: “House Blessing,” White’s Home, Brookfield
 7:00 pm - Men’s Bible Study, Crocker Hall
- Tue., Jan 6 9:30 am - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
- Wed., Jan 7 10:00 am - **Holy Eucharist & Healing** (YouTube Live)
 11 - Noon - Drive Thru-Food Collection #150
 7:00 pm - Women’s Evening Bible Study, Zoom
- Thu., Jan 8 9:30 am - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room
 11:30 am - Chronic Pain Group, Guild Room
 7:30 pm - Property Committee, Guild Room
 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- Fri., Jan 9 10:00 am - St. Paul’s Walking Group, Shepaug River Trail, Roxbury
- Sat., Jan 10 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, Zoom
- Sun., Jan 11 8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)
 9:30 am - Adult Class, Guild Room
 10:30 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
 10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)



Next Sunday - The First Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Preacher: Fr. Nate

Readings for January 11th

[Isaiah 42:1-9](#) - [Psalm 29](#) - [Acts 10:34-43](#) - [John 2](#)

