

WE GATHER AS CHRIST’S LIVING BODY

GATHERING MUSIC Noël (Christmas) César Franck

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

* UNISON INTROIT
*O Come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

* OPENING SENTENCES (Jeremiah 33:15) Laura VanDale
Grace and peace to you, from God our Creator, and Jesus Christ our Lord.
And also to you.
The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise:
A Righteous Branch will spring up from David, bringing justice and righteousness.

* HYMN 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Beloved in Christ: God is with us!
We are not alone!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION
God of the past, present, and future: the promise of a Righteous Branch from David was fulfilled. Jesus came among us full of grace and truth, inviting the world to turn to your ways of justice and compassion. When we fail to walk in your way, forgive us and set us free to hear truth, love neighbors and forgive as we have been forgiven. During this Advent season, help us to walk the pathway of Jesus, seeking those things that will endure forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON Romans 13:11-14 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.162)

ANTHEM O Magnum Mysterium Evan Ramos
O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in a manger. O great mystery. Amen.

* GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 24:36-44 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.27)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AT THE ADVENT WREATH - Candle of Hope

UNISON RESPONSE
Let this candle be our symbol of hope. Its glow whispers that despair is not the end. Its warmth reminds us that the fire of God is around and within us. May it spark courage and trust in us. (Pastor concludes with a prayer.)

DEPARTING SONG
*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay, close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

SERMON “A Blessed Intruder?” Dr. Butler
“Stay alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”

WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

* HYMN 92 “While We Are Waiting, Come” WAITING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* Arr. John Carter

* **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* **HYMN 93** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” TRURO

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **DEPARTING MUSIC** *Gloria in Excelsis* Charles Gounod
The people are welcome to depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship,
service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

- The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor
- The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates
- Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music
- Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
- Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary
- Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist
- Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper
- Scott Schreibman, Maintenance Custodian
- Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita



SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

10 a.m.
