

WE GATHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

O Come, O Come

Micheal D. Costello

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE

The Rev. Dr. James Butler

* UNISON INTROIT FOR ADVENT

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

* GREETING AND RESPONSES (Isaiah 40:5)

The Rev. Dr. Steve Gorman

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

* HYMN 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Abraham Roos, percussion

* 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 grace, during this Advent season, open our eyes and ears so that we recognize our faults and turn to you for grace and healing. Help us to love our neighbors, welcome strangers, show compassion, and forgive as we have been forgiven. Set us free, O God, to love you above all else, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 121, v. 4)
*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, their great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-5

(Pew Bible, O.T. p.667)

ANTHEM

I wonder as I wander

Appalachian Carol

Arr. John Jacob Niles and Lewis Henry Horton

Zara Smith, soprano

I wonder as I wander out under the sky. How Jesus the Savior did come for to die. For poor on’ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. When Mary birthed Jesus, ‘twas in a cow’s stall. With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God’s heaven a star’s light did fall. And the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing. Or all of God’s angels in heav’n for to sing. He surely could have it ‘cause he was the King.

* GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:1-11

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.2)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AT THE ADVENT WREATH – Candle of Peace

DEPARTING SONG (Hymn 115, v. 3)
*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

“The Hard Road to Comfort”

Dr. Butler

“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and tell her she has served her term; she has paid the penalty.”

WE PRAY AND GATHER AT THE TABLE

* HYMN 96 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” WINCHESTER NEW

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 *Bread of the World* Daniel Burton

* DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

* HYMN 105 “People, Look East” BESANÇON

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* DEPARTING MUSIC *Come now savior of heathens* Johann Sebastian Bach
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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

10 a.m.
