

WE GATHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC Prailudium & Fuga in e minor Johann Sebastian Bach

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

* UNISON INTROIT
O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* OPENING SENTENCES FOR ADVENT Abraham Roos
With mercy and grace,
Come, Lord Jesus.
With divine light and healing,
Come, Lord Jesus.
With God’s saving help,
Come, Lord Jesus.

* HYMN 141 “On this Day Earth Shall Ring” PERSONENT HODIE

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

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION
Gracious God, you know us as we are and love us still. When we serve ourselves and harm our neighbors, forgive us. When we do not forgive as we have been forgiven, forgive us, when we do refuse to follow your ways, forgive us and set us free 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 the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON Galatians 4:1-7 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.189)

ANTHEM Go Tell It On the Mountain Spiritual

* GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.56)

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
With joy, we welcome Bryson Louis Thomascik, son of Brad and Brandice Thomascik, and Elizabeth Thomascik, daughter of Matthew and Katy Thomascik, into the care of this congregation and the fellowship of the universal Body of Christ.

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 “Whistling in the Dark? Dr. Butler
“My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.”

WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

* HYMN (see insert) “One Wedding Dress Long Put Away” MORNING SONG

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

Give Me Jesus Traditional Spiritual
Venus Minaya, solo arr. Moses Hogan

In the mornin’ when I rise, give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus. Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus. Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus.

* 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

* HYMN 100 “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* DEPARTING MUSIC *Toccata in e* Johann Pachelbel
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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10 a.m.
