

WE GATHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC *Behold, a Rose Breaks into Bloom* Johannes Brahms

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

* UNISON INTROIT FOR CHRISTMASTIDE (Hymn 143, v. 4)
*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three-in-One.
Come and worship! Come and worship! Worship Christ the newborn Son.*

* GREETING AND RESPONSES Joel Egertson
May grace and peace be with you, from God our creator, and Jesus Christ our Lord.
And also with you.
A child was born for us; a son was given to us, and he is called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
With joy, let us worship God and remember Christ’s birth.
May his peace rest upon us.

* HYMN 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA

* 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 and wonder, our hearts are made glad by this yearly celebration of Christ’s birth. But most of us are relieved that the hustle and bustle is over. Some of us lost our temper, became judgmental, and were annoyed that we had to spend time with unpleasant people. Where we failed to rise above it and rejoice, forgive us and help us to see things clearly so that we will walk in light and love as the new year dawns. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:1-7 (Pew Bible, O.T. p.638)

* HYMN 146 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” TEMPUS ADEST FLORODUM

* GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:19-23 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.2)

SERMON “A ‘Third Wheel?’” Dr. Butler
“Joseph got up and took the child and his mother by night and went to Egypt.”

WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

* HYMN 116 “The Snow Lay on the Ground” VENITE ADOREMUS

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 *Anjou Christmas* César Franck

* 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 136 “Go, Tell it on the Mountain” GO TELL IT

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* DEPARTING MUSIC *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* Wilbur Held
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

Christmastide Sunday

December 28, 2025

10 a.m.
