

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## December 19, 2021

### 10 am

**ST. DUNSTAN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!*

*Please silence your phones and wear your mask while indoors.*

*If you are new, or would like to update your information, please fill out a pew card.*

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## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Prelude** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)*

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to shine bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love shine bright in us as we approach his coming, so that we may be ready to welcome him on Christmas Day. **Amen.**

*The people respond, singing:*

**People** O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Processional Hymn 74** Blest Be the King Whose Coming

*Valet will ich dir geben*

Priest **B**lessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest **A**lmighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Trisagion (S102)** *Sung three times.*

*after Alexander Archangelsky (1846–1924)*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

**The Collect of the Day** *The people stand or kneel.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

God made known in the friendship of women, the word of greeting and unseen life enwombed: give us the courage of the teenage mother who brings into the world a song of joyful revolt and a God who needs her love; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. **Amen.**

**Micah 5:2–5a**

*An ancient prophecy which foresees the day when a new ruler shall come forth for Israel out of David's city of Bethlehem in Ephrathah. The prophetic poem looks forward to the restoration of the Davidic dynasty after a time of hardship. In the Lord's strength this ruler will be like a shepherd to his people, and his dominion will be great. The early church heard the prophet's words as an oracle concerning Jesus.*

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader Here what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## Canticle 15: The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46—55

Mary offers a song of praise to God who has looked with favor on her and who has lifted up the lowly and brought down the powerful.

Cantor then the people sing the antiphon

*Antiphon*

1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness  
of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in  
God my Sa - vior; for he has looked  
with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him

in every generation. *Antiphon*

He has shown the strength of his arm,

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

and has lifted up the lowly. *Antiphon*

He has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,

to Abraham and his children for ever. *Antiphon*

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. *Antiphon*

## Hebrews 10:5–10

*The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world—to make an offering in his body for our sanctification. The opening words are taken from the fortieth Psalm. Repeated ritual sacrifices are of no delight to God in comparison with the once and for all offering which Jesus made in obedience to God's will. So does Jesus cancel the rule of the law, on which ritual sacrifices were based, and establish a new kind of obedience.*

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader Here what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn 53** Once He Came in Blessing

*Gottes Sohn ist Kommen*

**Luke 1:39–45**

*Mary's visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth, and this humble woman's song of thanksgiving to the savior God who has called her to be the mother of the Lord. Elizabeth is herself pregnant with a child who will be John the Baptist. Even in her womb this baby is joyful in Mary's presence. All generations will call Mary blessed.*

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Christmas Pageant**

The Children of St. Dunstan's

The Nicene Creed *All Stand.*

**W**e believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**W**e 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.

**W**e believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.

Who 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.

## **The Prayers of the People** *The people stand or kneel.*

Leader In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God.

May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble of broken lives and hearts to make our world and each of us a new creation.  
With hopeful hearts,

**People We pray to you, O God.**

Leader May our gracious God always console and comfort us,  
nourish our deepest hungers, and guide us in ways of justice and peace.  
With hopeful hearts,

**People We pray to you, O God.**

Leader May we find in the deserts of our lives a new Jordan,  
a stream of blessing that bears forgiveness, refreshment and joy.  
With hopeful hearts,

**People We pray to you, O God.**

Leader For the people of St. Dunstan's and St. Andre's,  
for Lucinda our Bishop, and all who do ministry near or far;  
may the God of John the Baptist raise up holy prophets in our midst,  
voices to challenge us to greater integrity and truthfulness.  
With hopeful hearts,

**People We pray to you, O God.**

Leader May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need, especially:  
With hopeful hearts,

**People We pray to you, O God.**

Leader May the God who is our future hold those who have died in the embrace  
of faithful love, especially:  
Together may we see new heavens and a new earth.  
With hopeful hearts,

**People We pray to you, O God.**

Priest O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal  
the fullness of our humanity. Come: Hear our prayers, renew your creation,  
restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and  
loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Priest **G**od has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith,  
and are themselves forgiving.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

*Silence*

Priest Let us confess our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

People **M**erciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done.

**We have sinned in ignorance:**

**we have sinned in weakness:**

**we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**We repent and turn to you.**

**Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,**

**and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

### **The Absolution**

Priest **T**hrough the cross of Christ,

God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

### **The Peace** *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*The people exchange the peace with one another.*

### **Announcements** *All are seated.*

#### **Birthday & Anniversary Blessings**

**O** God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as he/she begins another year. Grant that he/she may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his/her trust in your goodness all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## The Offertory

Priest Let us give to God with generosity and gladness  
the offerings of our lives, our labors, and our love.

### Offertory Anthem There Is No Rose of Such Virtue

*Jessica Nelson (b.1983)*

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space; Res miranda. (A wonderful thing)

By that rose we may well see  
That he is God in persons three, Pares forma. (Of the same form)

The angels sungen the shepherds to:  
Gloria in excelsis deo: (Glory to God on high) Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)

Leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth; Transeamus. (Let us go)

### Offertory Hymn 268 Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus

*Julion*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People And of thine own have we given thee.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2*

Priest The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

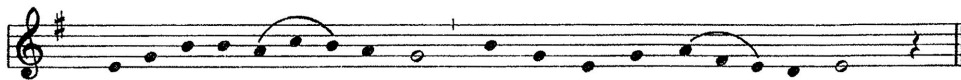
**People It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Priest We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**Sanctus** Holy, holy, holy Lord *Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx (1937—2010)*

*Cantor, All repeat:*



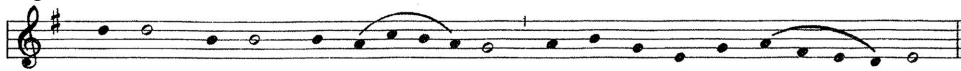
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God\_\_ of might.

*Cantor*



Heav - en and earth\_\_\_\_\_ are full\_\_ of your glo - ry.

*Cantor, All repeat:*



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

*Cantor*



Bless - ed is he\_\_ who comes in the\_\_ name\_\_ of\_\_ the\_\_ Lord.

*Cantor, All repeat:*



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

Priest Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

Priest He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

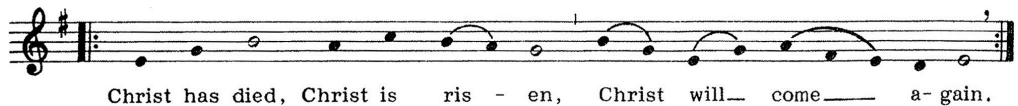
On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat:

This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Cantor, All repeat:*



Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given

for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with blessed Dunstan, blessed Andre, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

*Cantor, All repeat:*



Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

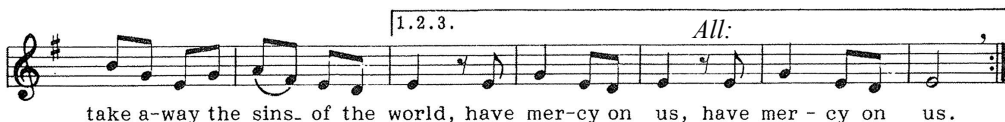
## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*


Cantor



1. Je-sus, wis-dom and might - y Lord: }
  2. Je-sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: }
  3. Key of Da-vid and Day-spring from on high: }
  4. De-sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el: }
- } you



take a-way the sins\_ of the world, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy on us.



world, grant us\_ peace,- grant us\_ peace.

Priest **This is the table of the Lord.**

**It is made ready for those who love him, And for those who want to love him more.**

**So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,**

**You who have been here often and you who have not been here long,**

**You who have tried to follow and you who have failed.**

**Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.**

**It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.**

## **ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION**

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.

When directed by the usher, come forward to the communion station.  
Please keep your mask on with your hands extended to receive the Host.  
The bread is received in the open palm.

Once you have moved away from the Minister,  
you may remove one side of your mask, consume the Host, and replace your mask.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing may indicate this by  
crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

**Communion Hymn 258** Virgin-born, We Bow Before Thee

*Psalm 86*

**Post-Communion Hymn 264** The Word Whom Earth and Sea and Sky

*Song 34*

### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

Priest Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

Priest **M**ay the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn 56** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
*Stanzas 2 — 8*

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

Priest **L**et us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Fugue on the Magnificat

*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.  
All are welcome to enjoy fellowship with one another outside the church during coffee hour.*

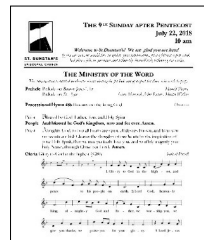


*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God*

*St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation  
and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity,  
culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.*

## Weekly Bulletins available electronically

Whether you want to save the environment by using less paper, like the idea of reading on your device, want to see what's coming up or what is past, our weekly worship bulletins are available as a PDF online at [stdcv.org/bulletins](http://stdcv.org/bulletins)



## Christmas Schedule

Each of our worship services for Christmas will have a unique flavor.

**Christmas Eve** (Friday, December 24)

**4 pm** Family Service & Holy Eucharist

**8 pm** Choral Eucharist

**Christmas Day** (Saturday, December 25)

**10 am** Holy Eucharist

**The First Sunday after Christmas Day** (Sunday, December 26)

**9 am** Holy Eucharist





*Many hands, light work*

## Greening the Church

**December 19**

Garland, wreaths, bows, and candles are all ready to go for Christmas. All we need are a gathering of hands that can spend an hour or so after church on December 19 to put them up. It has typically taken about an hour (imagine 11:30 - **12:30**), but you can help out for as much or as little time as you have.

## Office Closed Christmas Week

The parish office will be closed during Christmas week. We will return to regular office hours beginning Tuesday, January 4.

Sunday worship on January 2 will follow the normal schedule of 8 & 10 am.

## Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests



For pastoral concerns, contact Rev. Laurel [revlaurel@stdcv.org](mailto:revlaurel@stdcv.org) or on her cell 310-562-5746. And you can always leave a message on the Pastoral Care line at church [831-624-6646](tel:831-624-6646) ext 5.

Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer requests may be sent to [dok@stdcv.org](mailto:dok@stdcv.org). The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.

## Zoom Compline, Mondays at 5:30 pm

Please consider joining us for prayer as we give thanks to God for the day that is past and place our hope and faith in God for the night.

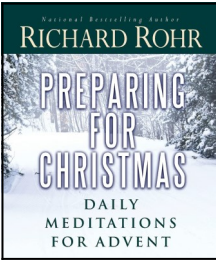
We are currently using the Order for Compline from the New Zealand Prayer book, which can be downloaded at [stdcv.org/bulletins](http://stdcv.org/bulletins).

### Join Zoom Compline

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85070384899>

Meeting ID: [850 7038 4899](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85070384899)





## Discussion Group

This Sunday, 9 am

We continue our discussing Richard Rohr's Preparing for Christmas.

We are now meeting in the Outer Office with masks. Or you can join us on Zoom.

For a link or more information, speak with [Janel Hornbeck](#).

## Rector's Sabbath

Rev. Laurel is observing her sabbath day on Fridays. Please respect this important time away except for pastoral emergencies. She will reply to any messages on Saturday.

## Deadline for eNews, Bulletin

Items for our eNews and Sunday Bulletin should be submitted to [office@stdcv.org](mailto:office@stdcv.org) by midnight Sunday.

*Help us get to know you by*

## Filling out a Pew Card

If you are visiting us, are new to Saint Dunstan's, or if your contact information has changed, please fill out a Pew Card and drop it in the collection plate. Thanks!

## "The Baker's Dozen" concert

January 9, 4 pm

The Baker's Dozen, one of Yale's oldest *a cappella* groups founded in 1947, will be performing at St. Dunstan's Sunday January 9 at 4 pm.

Tickets are \$25 adults, \$20 seniors and military, free for students and children.

## Upcoming Baptisms



On Sunday, January 9th, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, we will celebrate baptisms at the 10am service. If you or a member of your family (children or adults) are interested in being baptized, please contact Rev. Laurel [revlaurel@stdcv.org](mailto:revlaurel@stdcv.org) so she can include you. An evening Zoom preparation class (details, history, and room for questions) will take place the week before on Tues, January 4, at 7 pm, followed by a walk-through on Saturday, January 8th at 9 am.

*Sign up today to receive*

## St. Dunstan's weekly eNews

Getting weekly news, links to sermons, updates, and schedules is as simple as visiting [stdcv.org/subscribe](http://stdcv.org/subscribe) and entering your email address.

*Feeding the children of St. Andre's*

## **The Giving Tree**

Sunday will be the last day of our Giving Tree campaign to fund the meals for students at St. Andre's School in Hinche, Haiti. We are 70% of the way to our goal and know that with your help we can get there.

The school is operating a full capacity, having taken in children whose families have lost their homes in the earthquake and hurricane that ravaged the southern corner of Haiti last summer and fall.

These are more mouths to feed and every donation we receive helps.

Please help us fill our tree with ornaments as we work together to keep health and hope alive at St. Andre's School.



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### **St. Dunstan's Staff**

The Rev. Laurel Coote, Rector  
revlaurel@stdcv.org

Elizabeth Buche, Director Family Ministries  
families@stdcv.org

Rodney Gehrke, Director of Music  
music@stdcv.org

Louis Powell, Parish Administrator  
office@stdcv.org

# THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY—THURSDAY, 9 AM—12 NOON

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## Sunday, December 19

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 am Discussion Group  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)  
With Christmas pageant  
11:00 am Coffee Hour  
Choir Rehearsal

## Monday, December 20

- 5:30 pm Zoom Compline

## Tuesday, December 21

- 3:30 pm Staff Meeting  
7:30 pm AA

## Wednesday, December 22

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  
3:30 pm Staff Meeting

## Thursday, December 23

### Friday, December 24

~ Christmas Eve ~

- 3:00 pm Choir Rehearsal  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist  
(Family Service)  
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist  
(live-streamed)

### Saturday, December 25

~ Christmas Day ~

- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, December 26

- 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)  
11:00 am Coffee Hour

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View the entire parish calendar [stdev.org/calendar](http://stdev.org/calendar)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                   |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Cindy Poole         | 16 Bob Young      | 22 Jeanne Polaschek   |
| 2 Gigi McWilliams     | 17 Jack Lagier    | 22 Aleksander Simpson |
| 4 Charlie Rose Talley | 19 Chandler Clark | 24 Taylor Hawthorne   |
| 5 Nancy Green         | 20 Linda Keill    | 25 Joanie Webb        |
| 10 Gus Hawthorne      | 22 Jennifer Lama  | 30 Sylvia Shattuck    |



## **WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE**

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

## **WHAT WE ARE FOR**

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

## **WHAT WE ARE AGAINST**

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

## **WHAT WE VALUE**

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

## **WELCOME!**

*Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.*

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## **St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**

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