



## ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise, welcome, and serve:**

- to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
- to **praise** God in all things,
- to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
- to **serve** the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge

The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling, Celebrant

Connie Mayo, Music Director

**Advent 4**

December 21, 2025

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### The Gathering of the Community

**9:30 a.m.: Gathering at the Meditation Garden**

**10:00 a.m. Celebrant:** We acknowledge that the land we now occupy is the ancestral home of the Wabanaki People. We grieve the history of greed and violence that led to their loss of life, land, language and culture.

**Congregation:** We pray for the courage to find ways to support our indigenous neighbors who still face injustice and prejudice. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us; rather, we belong to the Earth.

*The bell is rung three times*

**Prelude:** *This Endris Nyght*

Healey Willan

*Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell*

**Opening Hymn** *The angel Gabriel from heaven came (back of bulletin)*

### **Opening Acclamation:**

**Celebrant:** Hear us, O never-failing Light,  
Lord our God, our only Light, the Fountain of Light,  
the Light of your angels, thrones, dominions,  
principalities, powers, and of all the beings of this world;  
you have created the light of your saints,  
the bright cloud of witnesses around us.

**Congregation:** **May our Souls be your lamps, kindled and illumined by you.  
May they shine and burn with your truth,**

**and never go out in darkness and ashes.  
May we be your dwelling, shining from you,  
shining in you;  
May we worship you always.**

From Ancient Mozarabic Prayer

### **Lighting the Advent Candle**

*Celebrant:* We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

*Congregation:* **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* May God be with you.

*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

God with us, borne by Mary's flesh beyond all convention:  
give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work  
where the world sees only shame;  
to listen to the promise and waken to the cry  
of life renewed and love reborn;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16**

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying.

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Portions of Psalm 80 S-415**

Jerome Webster Meachen  
(b. 1930)



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ||  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Man-asseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

**Restore us, O God of hosts; \***  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ||**  
**O LORD God of hosts, \***  
**how long will you be angered**  
**despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ||  
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**Restore us, O God of hosts; \***  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. ||**  
**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \***  
**the son of man you have made so strong for your-self.**

**And so will we never turn away from you; \***  
**give us life, that we may call upon your Name. ||**

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \***  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Second Lesson: Letter to the Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying.

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn 56** *O come, O come, Emmanuel (verses 1-3, in back of bulletin)*

## **The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*Congregation:* **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of Christ.

*Congregation:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling

*Silence will be commenced and ended with the sounding of a bell.*

## **Apostles Creed**

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* Holy God, help us to move through this Advent season seeking to shine your love into the world as we await your word made flesh in a baby born in a manger.

We lift our prayers to you, saying, "For your love's sake, hear our prayer."

We pray for the holy Church of God to be a light for all creation, a place of healing and reconciliation embodying the love of Christ to a hurting world.

*Congregation:* **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for all bishops, ministers, and spiritual leaders, especially we pray for our Presiding Bishop, Sean, Thomas, our Bishop, and all priests and deacons who serve our churches.

*Congregation:* **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for all those in authority in the world that they might work together to seek justice for all people. Give them compassion and wisdom to lead.

*Congregation:* **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Increase in us the power to serve, to feed the hungry, to comfort the sick, to welcome the stranger, to house those that need shelter.

*Congregation:* **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* For all those suffering from any illness or pain, from mental anguish or anxiety, for those feeling alone and unloved, may they know God's compassion and healing.

*Congregation:* **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for those who have died that they may rest in your eternal peace that passes all understanding.

*Congregation:* **For your love's sake, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We remember those on our Prayer List:

Janet, Meredydd Cooper, Henna Torrey Roy, Liz Leuthner, Jerry, Helen and Gibbie Nauman, Agnes and Billy, Barbara K., Julie and Tom, Gwyn Murray, Sally, Beth Kyzer, David, Preston Henderson, Mollie Ann Meserve, Tammie and Jason Cox, Tyler Goss, Kate Hallen and Bob Blum, Judith Jerome, Mimi Maslan, Semantha, Judy Miller, Megan, Bishop Thomas Brown, Naomi, Anne Burton, Hewit, Mary Ann and Terry, Nishah, David Morrish, Corbin, Rebecca, Pam B., Jaxson, Heather Corey, Stephen Gill, Bill Scaife, Brent Was, Gary and Wellesley, Mary Lawrence Hicks and family, Nancy Greene, Peter Brown, Seth, Linda Shepard and family, Lindsay Bowker, Marcia Scott, Tony Stoneburner, Carol Stoneburner

*Leader:* Please add your prayers and thanksgivings.

*Members of the congregation are invited to add prayers and thanksgivings at this time.*

*Leader:* Do any of you on Zoom wish to add prayers and thanksgivings?

*Leader and Congregation:* **Open our hearts to the cries of the world, give us strength and courage to serve those in need of the light of your love that we might witness to your power to bring joy and hope. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## **Confession**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Congregation:* **Most Holy God,**

**in the midst of this season of listening and waiting, we confess:**

**We have resisted the light of your love;**

**we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and**

**we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.**

**We stand in need of your love.**

**Holy Father, make us holy.**

**Holy Jesus, make us holy.**

**Holy Spirit, make us holy.**

**Holy God, make us whole. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear this good news:

God's mercy is wider than our transgressions.

God's love is deeper than our fear.

God's longing for our wholeness is stronger than our resistance.

We have been freed by grace to be God's people in the world.

Let our lives reflect the light entrusted to us,

in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Leader:* Peace within yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with you who are with us remotely today.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

*The people exchange the peace*

### **The Holy Eucharist**

**Offertory Anthem:** *Sent down by God is an angel*

*Benesov Songbook*

Sung by Choir

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant:* 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** (*next page*)

# Sanctus

Words: Liturgical traditional  
Music: John L. Bell

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus, sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus,  
Sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus,

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Sanc - tus, sanc - tus, sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus,'. The bottom line is a bass accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus,'. The lyrics for the bottom line are positioned below the staff.

De - us Sab - ba - oth, De - us Sab - ba - oth.  
De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.  
De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.

De - us Sab - ba - oth, De - us Sab - ba - oth.

Detailed description: This system contains the second and third lines of music. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'De - us Sab - ba - oth, De - us Sab - ba - oth.' and 'De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.' on two separate lines. The bottom line is a bass accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.' on two separate lines. The lyrics for the bottom line are positioned below the staff.

Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,  
Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,  
Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,' and 'Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,' on two separate lines. The bottom line is a bass accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with lyrics 'Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,' on two separate lines. The lyrics for the bottom line are positioned below the staff.

Music © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, UK.

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

*Celebrant:* 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. 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."

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 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.

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

*Celebrant:* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

*Congregation:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Fraction Anthem**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*Congregation:* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. United by the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst, we acknowledge the Holy Sacrament of communion and the fullness of Christ's presence in the gifts of the bread and the wine and in countless other ways in our lives. As a community of faith, nothing can separate us from the love of God nor are we separated from one another.**

*Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the people of God ...

*Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread and wine*

*Celebrant:* And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Congregation:*

**We give thanks, O Lord, for these  
heavenly gifts;**

**kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when Christ comes again**

**We may shine as light before  
his face;**

**who is alive and reigns now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May the light of Christ  
hold you, uphold you,  
pursue and renew you.  
So to fill and instill in you  
Light you might carry  
Into the world God so loves.  
In the name of the Father,  
The Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Congregation: Amen.*

**Sending Hymn** *People, look East (in back of bulletin)*

**Postlude:** *Zu Bethlehem geboren*

H. Walcha

## **Announcements**

## **Dismissal**

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Prayers of the People written by Emily Blair Stribling

Post Communion Prayer from the Church of England © The Archbishop's Council 2000, published by Church House Publishing

### **Giving our Priorities Shape (GPS) Action**

#### **Love in Action**

#### **Slow Down. Quiet. It's Advent.**

Thinking about Elaine's sermon and Tony Stoneburner's Annunciation poem, let us consider what keeps us from hearing, listening, seeing, acting to share God's love with our neighbors near and far. Are we too busy, distracted by our phones, fearful of risk, resigned, overwhelmed? Try to wake up each day to a decision to bring joy to someone somewhere in some small way.

## CALENDAR

**All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.**

Monday, December 22	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, December 24	10:00 a.m. In-person meditation 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Pastor Elaine Hewes presiding
Thursday, December 25	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at St. Francis by the Sea
Sunday, December 28	10:00 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Donna Downs presiding

### Looking Ahead

Sunday, January 11, 2026	3:00 p.m. Walking the Camino de Santiago Jane Lachance
Monday, February 2, 2026	6:00 p.m. Feast of the Presentation at the Meditation Garden followed by soup and drink in the parish hall

# THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



1. wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
2. gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
3. me be as it pleas - es God!" she said. "My
4. Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn; And



1. hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
2. Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told."
3. soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name." } "Most
4. Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



- 1-4. high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: 10 10 12 10; *Birjina gaztettobat zegoen*; trad. Basque carol; tr. by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924.

Music: Trad. Basque carol melody.

## O come, O come, Emmanuel *The Hymnal 1982, #56*



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

## People, Look East

1. Peo-ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the  
 2. Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed  
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
 4. An-gels an-nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as  
 earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the

People, look east and sing to - day:

hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:  
 course the flower may flour-ish.  
 sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 word, the Lord is com-ing. Peo-ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928

BESANCON

87.98.87