

Welcome to St James Episcopal Church...

We're glad that you chose to worship with us today!

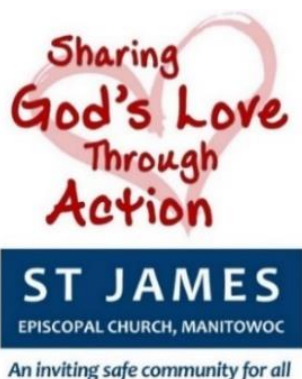
- Masks are optional for all church activities, including worship. Distancing is still a safer practice.
- Communion is provided for those who would like to consume bread and/or wine as directed. You may participate in spiritual communion if you prefer to not receive either physical element. (*This is sacramentally appropriate any time receiving bread and/or wine is not a possibility for any reason. The bread and wine are the outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace in the communion sacrament.*)

This Worship service will be live streamed on YouTube. If you have privacy concerns for yourself or your child(ren), please let Amma Diane or an usher know so we may accommodate you. Our current and previous videos may be viewed online live or any time after : go.mysjec.com/youtube



10AM Worship with Communion – November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent



Today's Worship leadership includes...

<i>Ministers</i>	Members of the Congregation
<i>Readers</i>	1 — Mike Laughrin
	3 — Richard Hall
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Dave Dillman
<i>Rector (Pastor)</i>	The Rev'd Diane M Murray (Amma Diane)
<i>Worship Coordinator</i>	Tony Karl
<i>Pianist</i>	Barb Cook

We are an inclusive community of faith that welcomes and celebrates diversity in age, race, nation of origin, citizenship status, gender identity, sexual orientation, social status, political view, background, ability level, marital status, and anything else that makes us unique. Whatever your reason for coming, we are glad you are here!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

mysjec.com — info@mysjec.com — Church Office: 920.684.8256

Amma Diane: 920.860.5152 (cell/text) — dianemarie.murray@gmail.com

If you would like to know more about the life, mission, or ministries of St James Episcopal Church, please talk to any member of our Vestry (church council):

Rector (Pastor): The Rev'd Diane M Murray *Wardens:* Chris Dee Eggert-Rosenthal & Mary Green

Vestrypersons: Nick Doszkewycz, Joan Estes, & Tony Karl

Clerk: Tony Karl *Treasurer:* Linda Molitor

All the words you will need are in this bulletin: Text that the people say is prefaced with "People" or "All" and is in a **bold font**. All song lyrics are also in this bulletin.

Wi-Fi access: Look for our networks beginning with **CBCI-77B0** and enter password **build7443guitar**; we encourage you to share pictures and posts on social media.

Worship/Liturgy Sources: Our worship is based on the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP--the red hardcover book in the pew rack), the *Book of Occasional Services*, the *Enriching Our Worship series*—the primary liturgical resources authorized by General Convention of The Episcopal Church—supplemented by occasional other resources. You may find additional prayers in the BCP on pages 832-834 helpful for personal devotion before, during, and after worship (especially prayers 64-69 and 57-61). If you'd like a BCP for your own use at home, the church can provide one for you—please talk to Amma Diane.

Children: Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Activity bags are available in the back of the church. A changing station is available in the restroom in the atrium just outside the sanctuary.

Hearing Loop: Our Hearing Loop system enables people with hearing loss to better hear sounds through our sound system. If you can set your hearing aid to a T or M/T setting, audio from our sound system will be received directly by your device (70% of aids have this feature). If your aid does not have this option, or you do not wear a hearing aid, there are a few portable headsets available in the back of the church.



Please share your prayer requests with us: All are invited to share their prayer requests so that the entire congregation may join in lifting up your needs and thanksgivings. Please add requests to the Prayers of the People clipboard (you can simply use first names on requests... God knows our needs). If you'd like a prayer lifted up for multiple weeks, please fill out a prayer request slip found at the back of the church.

We worship with our bodies: You'll notice that some of us may sit, stand, and kneel at various points in the service. Some of us may make the sign of the cross or bow now and then. Some may clap, raise their hands, or tap their feet. All of these movements are traditions from various parts of our Christian heritage—none are required, none are frowned upon. All are welcome to express whatever movements they might find meaningful in worship. Some instructions are printed throughout this bulletin—you may also observe what others do. None of these movements are a requirement: if you prefer not to use them, don't worry about it—God doesn't.

Restrooms/Layout/Accessibility: A handicapped-accessible restroom is located in the atrium just outside the sanctuary (next to the elevator.) Another restroom is located on the lower level. The atrium gives access to the lower level and upper level by stairs or elevator. The worship space and chapel are located on the upper level. The offices, fellowship hall, library, and classrooms are located on the lower level and marked by signs.

Welcome!

All who are able, please stand.

♪ **Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

[Hymnal #67]

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.

“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Words: Johanes Olearius, 1671; trnsI Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt Music: *GENEVAN 42*, Genevan Psalter, 1551

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free. AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty 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.

People **AMEN!**

♪ **Trisagion (Thrice-Holy)**

[Hymnal #S102; sung 3 times]

Ho - ly God, _____ ho - ly and might - y,

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

Trisagion, from the Greek meaning “thrice holy”. Setting: version *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924).

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **AMEN!**

Please be seated.

First Lesson

Reader 1 A reading of Isaiah chapter 2, verses 1 through 5.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader 1 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Unison Reading

Reader 1 Let us read in unison Psalm 122.

All I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD. For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

New Testament

Reader 1 A reading of Romans chapter 13, verses 11 through 14.

Now You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader 1 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All who are able, please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 24. 36-44

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Celebrant Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

Amma Diane

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

Prayers of the People

The first system of the musical score is written on a single five-line staff in treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of the following notes: a half note G4, a half note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, and a final whole note G3. The notes are written in a simple, clear style suitable for a children's songbook.

For the holy churches of God in every place, especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Matt our Bishop, for Diane our Rector, for all lay leaders and clergy, and for the unity of all, we pray:

Reader 3 O God, the days are surely coming when all your promises will be fulfilled. We pray for the church, that we might fulfill our promises to you, and be forgiven for all our failures. Come, Lord God.

All ♪ Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.

Reader 3 In your time, O Lord, a righteous branch sprang up and you brought justice and righteousness in every land. We pray for our nation and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth. Come, Lord God.

All **♪ Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.**

Reader 3 You bring your people safety and comfort. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs. Come, Lord God.

All **♪ Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.**

Reader 3 Your great works of redemption, O God, span the ages. We pray for those who rejoice this week that they might be filled with joy and gladness. Come, Lord God.

All **♪ Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.**

Reader 3 We thank you for your presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. Come, Lord God.

All **♪ Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.**

Reader 3 We lift up the special needs and concerns of this congregation, including those on our prayer lists and those we remember now silently or aloud...

The people offer additional prayers at this time.

...Come, Lord God.

All **♪ Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.**

Reader 3 Come, Lord God: change us and we shall be changed. Come, increase our awareness of your presence, strengthen our love for you, and fill our hearts with holiness. Come, awaken us to be ready and watchful for your coming. Come, Lord God: change us and we shall be changed; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **AMEN!**

Reader 3 Let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **AMEN!**

Please be seated. Those with birthdays or anniversaries, please come forward at this time. If you would like a prayer for healing, travel, or any other needs, please let Amma Diane know.

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

All AMEN!

All who are able, please stand.

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

We share God's love with others from a distance with verbal greetings, waving, peace sign, etc. Please be seated.

Announcements *All giving announcements: please use a mic for our friends online.*

Celebrating Our Mission, Service, & Ministries *Congregational sharing.*

Offering Our Gifts & Our Selves

Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are online giving options on our web site mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.

All who are able, please stand.

♪ If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayer



If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
 If we just dream of what could be
 If we just sing of do - ing good
 God, may our prayers and dreams and songs

— And don't live out a faith that dares,
 — And do not build com - mun - i - ty,
 — And don't walk through our neigh - bor - hood
 — Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs -

— And don't take on the ways of death,
 — And do not seek to change our ways,
 — To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
 — That works for peace and just - ice, too,

— Our thoughts and prayers are fleet - ing breath.
 — Our dreams of change are false dis - plays.
 — Our talk of good is simp - ly vain.
 — Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Words: ©2017 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Music: *O WALY WALY*, traditional English melody.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant God be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

♪ **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord** Setting: from *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (b.1937). [Hymnal #S125]

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take... Eat... this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection, the ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN!

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

All 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!

Breaking Bread

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

All We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

♪ Lamb of God

Setting: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b 1950). [Hymnal #S161]

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

At this time, the Celebrant will extend the invitation to communion to all present and give instructions as needed. Visitors are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

All who are able, please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN!

Prayer for our Time of Transition

by Linda C Smith-Criddle

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for our time of transition.

All Assist us, Lord, in living hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism, when confronted by "the new" and to guard us against our own defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN!

Seasonal Blessing for Advent

Celebrant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All **AMEN!**

♪ **Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us**

[Hymnal #61]

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us,
 the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:
 "Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
 Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
 their urgent summons clearly spoken:
 "The time has come, O maidens wise!
 Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
 Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
 that you the wedding feast may share."
 Zion hears the watchman singing;
 her heart with joyful hope is springing,
 she wakes and hurries through the night.
 Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
 in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
 her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia!
 We follow all and heed your call
 to come into the banquet hall.
 Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
 let saints and angels sing before you,
 as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
 Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
 through them we stream to join the immortals
 as we with joy your throne surround.
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!
 Therefore we sing to greet our King;
 for ever let our praises ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trnsl Carl P Daw, 1982. Music: *WACHET AUF*, Philipp Nicolai, 1599.

Sending

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thank you for celebrating with us today! Please join us downstairs
 after worship for refreshments, snacks, and conversation.**

Our special offering in the month of November is the Manitowoc Warming Shelter; please label gifts accordingly.

ADVENT CALENDAR 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Worship Advent 1 Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?	28 Go Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.	29 Learn Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.	30 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.	1 Bless We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.	2 Turn Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?	3 Rest Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.
4 Worship Advent 2 Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?	5 Go Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.	6 Learn Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.	7 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.	8 Bless Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.	9 Turn Where did you struggle this week? Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.	10 Rest Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.
11 Worship Advent 3 Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.	12 Go Take a new or different route to work, or school, or out to run errands. See how using a different route requires you to see the world differently — to pay a different kind of attention. What do you notice along the way that makes you stop and take a second look? Does anything on this new route inspire your faith journey or remind you of lessons learned?	13 Learn Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.	14 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.	15 Bless Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.	16 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal. Turn your attention toward how you will be resting tomorrow, and put things in place so you can make the most of your sabbath time.	17 Rest Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.
18 Worship Advent 4 Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.	19 Go Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.	20 Learn Read Habakkuk 2:1-4. Does this reading remind you of Thomas the disciple? Why do you think the folks who organized the lectionary picked this reading from the Old Testament for this friend of Jesus?	21 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.	22 Bless Make sure to pick up an extra present or two — a nice candy sampler or a warm pair of slippers or pajama pants, just in case you have extra friends or guests drop by. Ask God to bless those who travel and those who may be alone in the coming days. Take some bottled water and sports drinks over to your local community cold weather shelter. They will be extra glad to have that during the winter months.	23 Turn If you are gathering with friends and family today, consider taking time during the meal to turn to the folks on your right, and then on your left, to thank them for their love in your life. See how this might spread some joy and comfort around the table — or maybe even ease some potentially prickly guests.	24 Rest Christmas Eve The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.