

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist | December 21, 2025

WELCOME!

You are invited to be a part of this community whether you're arriving for the first time or returning. This bulletin is intended to encourage and enable your enthusiastic participation.

The staffed Nursery is available for little ones during and following the 9:30 service.

Today St. David's ministers travel to Hope Springs at Minnetonka (formerly Lake Minnetonka Care Center) to share both worship and friendship. Please continue to keep all our friends residing there in your prayers.

St. David's Welcomes You

St. David's Episcopal Church is committed to following Jesus' example of practicing radical hospitality, seeking to find God in all people because they are of sacred worth. We respect the dignity of all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community of faith.

Loving God. Loving One Another.

St. David's Mission Statement

We at St. David's Episcopal Church are devoted to loving and serving God, one another and the world. Honoring the dignity and freedom of all to seek God at their own pace, we connect our life stories with the teachings of Jesus. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we believe our actions transform the world and ourselves.

Please note, this service is livestreamed and recorded on Facebook and YouTube.

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-729358 and CCLI license #A-21881814.
Acclamations from *Advent Mass*, ©2011, 2021 Roger Stratton

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

The Cherry Tree Carol

trad. Appalachian

When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he,
he courted our Mary, the Queen of Galilee.

And when he had wedded her, and home had her brought,
Mary proved to be with child, but Joseph knew her not.

Then Joseph and Mary were a-walking in the grove,
they saw cherries and berries, as red as any rose.

And Mary said to Joseph in words meek and mild,
"Gather me some cherries, Joseph, for I am with Child.

But Joseph said to Mary in words so unkind,

"Let him gather thee cherries, Mary, who brought thee with child!"

Then Jesus spoke unto the tree, from within his mother's womb,

"Bow down, thou cherry tree for my mother to have some.

And the highest branches bent as low as Mother Mary's knee,
and she gathered of the cherries by one, two and three.

Then Mary had a young son which she dandled on her knee,
and she said unto her fair child, "What shall this world be?"

"This world," he said, "Is no other than the stones in the street;
but the sun, moon and stars shall sail under thy feet."

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

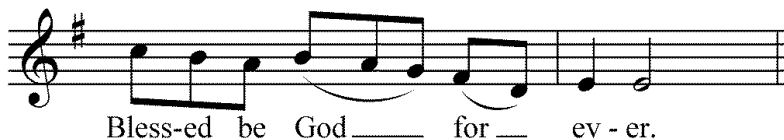
Please stand as you are able.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:



Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,

who is the Lord and Saviour of all.



Text: from *The Promise of His Glory* Music: Malcolm Archer, ©2000 Oxford University Press

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



7. O come, de - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
8. O Come, O come, Em - man - u - el, re - deem thy



hearts of hu - man - kind; O bid our sad di -
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly



vi - sions cease, and be for us our king of peace.
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

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

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world.
People **The light no darkness can overcome.**

Trisagion

Children ages 3-6 are invited to process out for Godly Play, returning at the time of communion distribution.

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and migh - ty,
ho - ly im - mor - tal one, have mer - cy on us.
Ho - ly God, ho - ly and migh - ty,
ho - ly im - mor - tal one, have mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God,
ho - ly and migh - ty, ho - ly im - mor - tal one, have mer - cy on us.
Ho - ly im - mor - tal one, have mer - cy on us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

First Reading

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a / flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma-/-nasseh, *
stir up your strength, and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of / hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be / saved.
- 4 O God of / hosts, *
how long will you be angered, despite the prayers of your / people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of / tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to / drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to / scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of / hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be / saved.

Second Reading

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Hymn and reading of the Gospel.



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; here a - mong us make your home.
2. Dew from hea - ven, gen - tly come; bring our bar - ren land to bloom.
3. Long de - sired of a - ges past, Show your - self to us at last;
4. Ra - diance of God's ho - ly face, shine your love in this dark place.



All cre - a - tion, heav'n and earth, groans un - til you come to birth.
Melt our moun - tains, bless - ed rain; let proud hills be lev - el plain.
And from sin's cap - ti - vi - ty, Call us back and set us free.
Splend - or of God's glo - ry bright, lead us to e - ter - nal light!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB ©1983, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

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

People **Glory to you, Lord 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Leonard Freeman

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

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

We 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped 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.

Prayers of the People

Deacon In Advent hope, we lift our prayers to you, Holy One.

God a-mong us, hear us, hear our prayer!

The image shows a musical score for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'God a-mong us, hear us, hear our prayer!' are written below the treble staff, with lines connecting the notes to the words.

Leader We pray for the world: for justice, peace, reconciliation, and healing. We bring our anxiety and fears into the light of your love.

All sing **God among us, hear us, hear our prayer!**

We pray for the church: for boldness of vision, courage, compassion, creativity, joy, humility, and hospitality. We pray especially for the people of St. George's in these final weeks of worshiping together in their church in St. Louis Park. Help us taste your life and share your feast.

God among us, hear us, hear our prayer!

We pray in gratitude: for love, community, life, and beauty. Give us eyes to see your gifts and remind us to celebrate your presence.

God among us, hear us, hear our prayer!

We pray for healing: for all who are anxious, depressed, lonely, sick or suffering, especially for... and for our Somali and Latino neighbors, that they be surrounded with protection, courage, and the unwavering assurance that they are not alone in the face of kidnappings, fear and injustice. Help us to remember that you are a God of new life.

God among us, hear us, hear our prayer!

We pray for those who have died, especially... We pray for all who died at Bondi Beach in Australia and at Brown University. We look for your light of life in our sorrow, grief and loss.

God among us, hear us, hear our prayer!

Please offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.

God among us, hear us, hear our prayer!

May we ready our hearts to be born again in love.

Amen.

Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence. You are invited to be seated, to kneel or to remain standing

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution

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

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We Share in Holy Communion

Please stand, as you are able, while the offerings of bread and wine are presented. You may be seated until the singing of the Doxology, when we ask that you stand once more.

Offertory

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

arr. Tom Keesecker

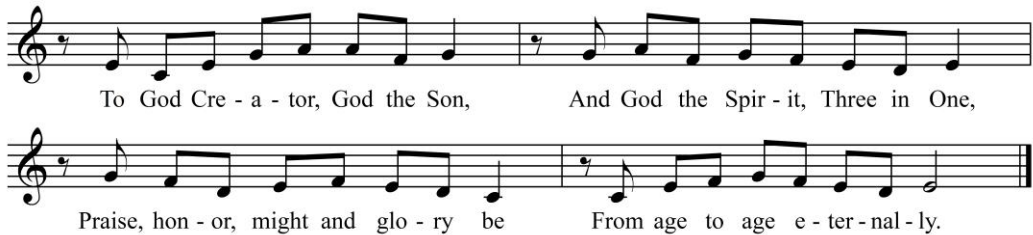
Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within;
Seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
Come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view:
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, ©2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Suo Gân, trad. Welsh

Doxology



To God Cre - a - tor, God the Son, And God the Spir - it, Three in One,
Praise, hon - or, might and glo - ry be From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

The Great Thanksgiving

Remain standing as you are able.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All repeat each phrase after the cantor:

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est.
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-

san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. rit. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our Mothers; God of Hagar and Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.


Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

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.

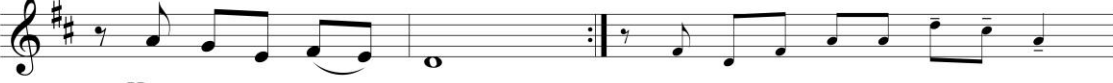
The Breaking of the Bread

O Lamb of God, Em-man - u - el,



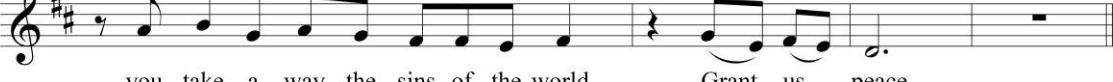
you take a - way the sins of the world.

O Lamb of God, Em - man - u - el,



Have mer - cy on ___ us.

O Lamb of God, Em - man - u - el,



you take a - way the sins of the world. Grant us ___ peace.

Holy Communion

Everyone, without exception and regardless of age or faith tradition, is invited to share in Holy Communion at the Lord's table. If you wish, please come forward to receive the bread and wine. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

Gluten-free wafers are available. The wine is shared from a common cup; feel free to receive only the bread if you prefer. (For health reasons, we ask that you do not dip the bread in the wine.) If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion, you can indicate this desire by crossing your arms over your chest.

A prayer station is available in the All Saints' Chapel (Narthex) during the distribution of communion. Any who wish may ask for prayers for themselves or on behalf of others.

Communion Anthem

O Emmanuel

Healey Willan

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, for whom the nations wait, their only Savior:
come, thou, O Lord, our God, be our Salvation.

Communion Hymn

Gift of God

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Word of mercy, word of justice:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Word of prophets, word of poets:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Holy Word of God made flesh.

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

You are bread for all who hunger:

You are drink for all the thirsting:

You are sacrifice and feast.

To a world of strife and conflict:

To a world of fears and hatreds:

Comes the gentle Prince of Peace.

To a world of grief and sadness:

To a world of pain and suffering:

Comes the hope of joy renewed:

To a world that yearns for meaning:

To a world of many hungers:

Comes the Living Bread of Life.

God's own sign of hope and promise;

Holy Child to save all people;

Blessed One, Emmanuel.

- Marty Haugen, ©2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

Sending Forth of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

On those days when the parish sends out Lay Eucharistic Visitors to those who cannot attend the liturgy, the Bread is presented to the Visitors at the altar, using this form.

Deacon In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we share the one bread and the one cup.**

Prayer after Communion

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We Go into the World in God's Name

Announcements

Want to read more about what's going on at St. David's?
Scan this QR code to access the Weekly News:



The Blessing

Departing

People, Look East



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who



crown - ing of ___ the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. Ev - en the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the fros - ty
 brings new life___ to earth. set ev' - ry peak and val - ley



a - ble, trim___ the hearth___ and set___ the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that___ in course___ the flow'r___ may flour - ish.
 froz - en he___ for fledg - ing time___ has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright___ as sun___ and moon___ to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with___ the word,___ the Lord___ is com - ing.



Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Guest is on___ the way._____
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Rose is on___ the way._____
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Bird is on___ the way._____
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Star is on___ the way._____
 Peo - ple look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on___ the way._____

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, David Higham Assoc.Ltd. Music: BESANÇON, French folk melody

Dismissal

Deacon
 People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve - one 4:30 service of Holy Eucharist
with festive music and and intergenerational pageant,
preceded by "Potluck Prelude" at 4:10
and followed by a potluck reception in the undercroft**

Christmas Day – one 10:00 service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 28 – Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 9:30 am

Sunday, January 4 – Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 9:30 am

**Epiphany - Sunday, January 11 – one 9:30 service of Holy Eucharist
with a special visit from the Magi**

On Epiphany, we will be collecting goods for our annual "baby shower" for Reach and Restore, a nonprofit connecting people with needs to people with resources. *Here's an updated list of needs for this year:*

- Baby Diapers (in small and larger sizes)
- Adult Winter Coats
- Winter Shoes - Hiking, Gym and Boots (all sizes/ ages)
- Sweatshirts and pants all sizes
- Underwear- all sizes - conservative in style and no graphics
- Socks- Boys
- Kitchen Utensils
- Can Openers
- Pots and Pans
- Cookie Sheets, 9x13 and 8x8 pans
- Dish Sets
- Cereal Bowls and Mixing Bowls
- Measuring Cups and Spoons
- Toasters, Crock Pots, Coffee Makers
- Kitchen Towels, Oven Mitts, Washcloths and Sponges
- Bed Sheets
- Women's Hygiene Products
- Razors, Shampoo, Soap, Body Wash, Toothpaste,
- Kid Toothbrushes

- Bath Towel Sets
- Shower Liners and Rings
- Basic Cleaning Products and Supplies
- Dollar Tree Gift Cards
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Gallon and Quart Size Kitchen Storage Bags for donated food
- Volunteers - flexible in nature

Our Leadership

Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe ▪ 212-716-6273

Bishop of The Episcopal Church in Minnesota

The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya ▪ 612-870-3301 ▪ craig.l@episcopalmn.org

Wardens

Sr. Warden ▪ David Niles ▪ 612-799-6808 ▪ dniles@stdavidsparish.org

Jr. Warden ▪ Cathy Schwichtenberg ▪ (612) 710-2203 ▪ cschwichtenberg@stdavidsparish.org

Rector

The Very Rev. Katherine Lewis ▪ 612-747-5405 cell ▪ klewis@stdavidsparish.org

Deacon Emeritus

The Rev. Guy Drake ▪ 612-590-8502 ▪ gdrake@stdavidsparish.org

Adjunct Clergy

The Rev. Leonard Freeman ▪ 952-476-6267 ▪ LandL30@aol.com

The Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman ▪ 952-476-6267 ▪ lhfreeman25@gmail.com

Manager for Finance, Communications and Ministry Support

Shea Brendalen ▪ 952-935-3336 ext. 17 ▪ sbrendalen@stdavidsparish.org

Minister of Music

Roger Stratton ▪ 612-819-5247 ▪ rstratton@stdavidsparish.org

Children and Youth Minister

Anna Belz-Brock ▪ 320-221-4075 ▪ abrock@stdavidsparish.org

Minister of Parish Life

Julia Moser-Hardy ▪ 952-935-3336 ▪ office@stdavidsparish.org

Parish Office

952-935-3336 ▪ office@stdavidsparish.org

