Emmanuel Episcopal Church



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

We are glad that you are here today — to worship God, renew your spirit, deepen your faith, meet new friends, and find new ways to serve.

Children are very welcome in worship:
in the pews, in the chapel Prayground, or in the parish hall!

If you are a visitor or newcomer, we welcome you! We invite you to sign the guest register or scan the QR code at the back of the bulletin so we can let you know of upcoming services and events.
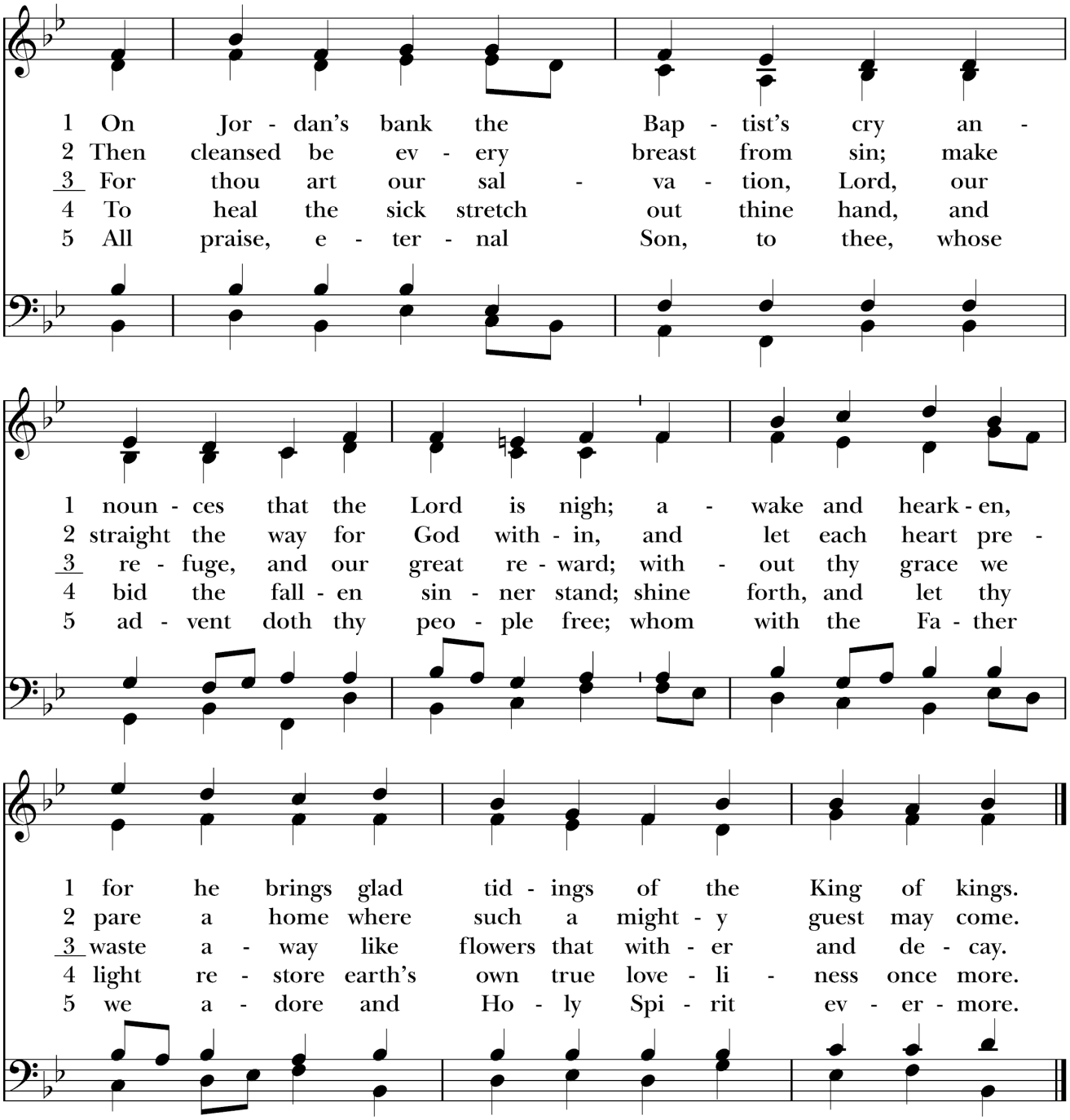
Full-service bulletins are available on our website along with the weekly announcements:
www.emmanuelepiscopal.org. Wi-Fi: Emmanuel Guest - Password: Behold961

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We respectfully recognize that we are on traditional, ancestral lands of the Kaskaskia, Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Myaamia, Očhéthi, Šakówin, O-ga-xpa Ma-zho^{n} (O-ga-xpa) and Osage Nations. We acknowledge our complicity in the process of colonization that removed these people from their ancestral lands and affirm our commitment to stand with Indigenous communities today as we all work toward racial justice, equity, and liberation for all people.

Prelude Voluntary on “Winchester New” C. S. Lang

Opening Hymn: On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Hymnal 76



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Third Sunday of Advent

Reader: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Two blue candles and the rose candle are lit.

Hymn O come, O come, Emmanuel (vs. 6 only), Hymnal 56

O come, thou Dayspring from– on high,
and cheer us by thy draw–ing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds– of night,
and death's dark shadow put– to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emman–uel shall come to thee, O Is–rael!

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Reader: Rejoice in God always, and again I say rejoice, for God has created you with the capacity for joy.

All: We will find what makes us joyful and make that our gift to the world.

Reader: Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

All: We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.
We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.
We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.

The Word of God

Priest: In the tender compassion of our God
People: The dawn from on high shall break upon us
Priest: To shine on those who dwell in the shadow of death
People: To guide our feet into the way of peace.

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. **Amen.**

The Song of Praise

Celebrant Let us glorify the Holy One as we proclaim.

Celebrant and People

O Light of the world, first born of creation, radiance of glory, light from light begotten.
God self-revealing, holy, bright and blessed, you shine upon us.
Day's light is fleeting, your light is eternal and we look to you, our light within the shadow.
We sing to you O Creator, Christ and Spirit, you shine before us.
Light of our world, O Jesus Christ we bless you; giver of life and Child of God we praise you. Here with us the universe proclaims your glory, as you shine among us. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The children are led out to Children's Chapel.

The Lessons

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (35:1-10)

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9 **Lauda, anima mea** BCP, 803

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

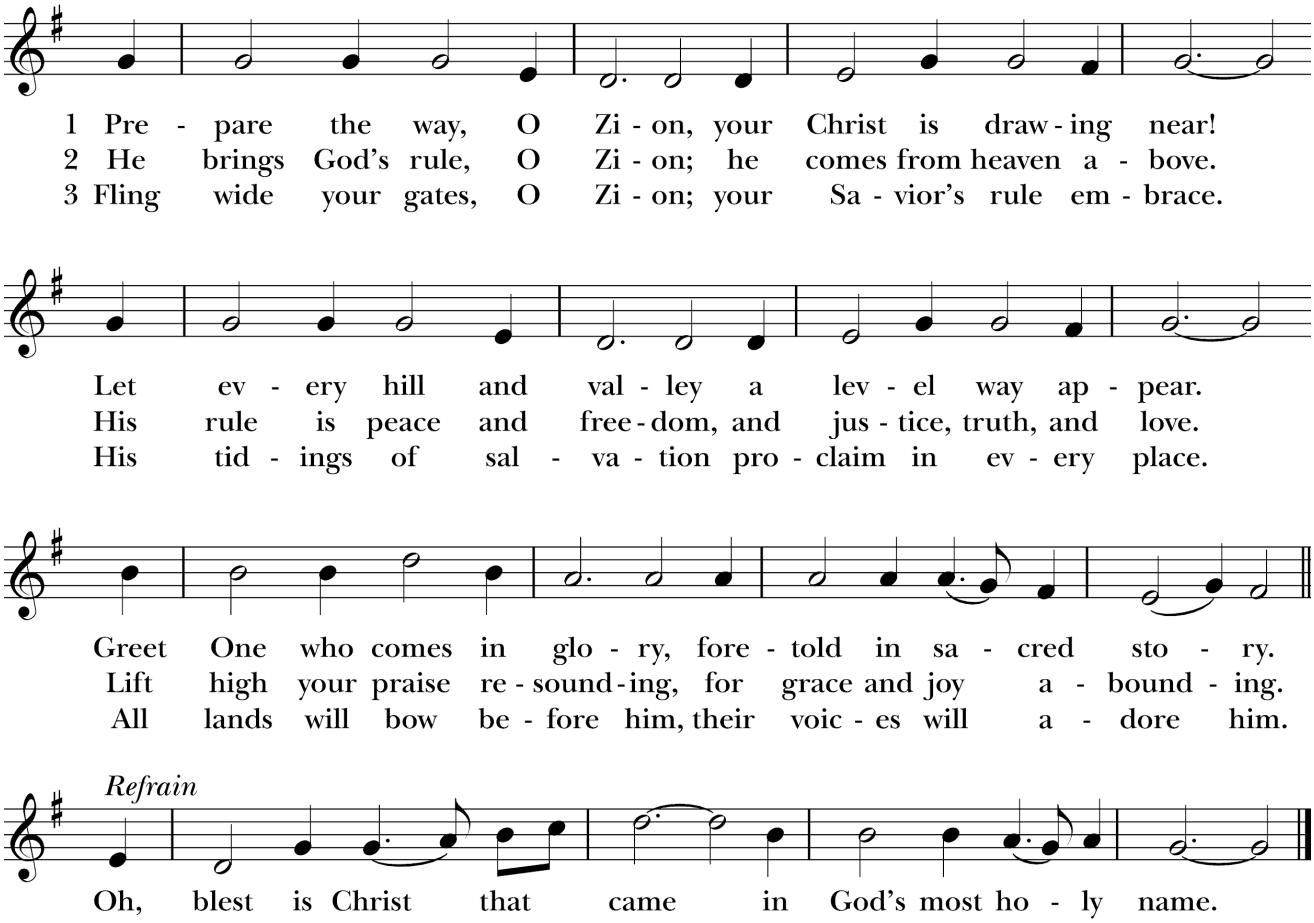
A reading from the letter to James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (5:7-10)

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn Prepare the way, O Zion Hymnal 65

Before the Gospel: vs. 1 & 2 | After the Gospel: vs. 3



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

Deacon/Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." (11:2-11)

Deacon/ Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

A meditative moment of silence is kept after the sermon to allow time for the Holy Spirit to carry the Word deep into our hearts.

Advent Affirmation, Form B

Priest/Deacon In this season of waiting and wonder, we affirm our faith in the God who comes— Creator, Christ, and Spirit—whose light is born anew in every heart and throughout all creation.

We believe in God, the Weaver of all creation, who spun galaxies from starlight and shaped the earth from clay; whose breath gives life to every living thing, and whose promise is planted deep within the waiting world.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, Light kindled in the darkness, who came as a child of heaven and earth, revealing the face of God in the heart of humanity. He walked among us as grace upon grace, embracing our joys and our sorrows, and in love stronger than death he opened the way of life everlasting.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, wild as wind, gentle as breath, the Fire who dances through creation, awakening hearts, stirring dreams, and drawing all things into the circle of God's love.

We believe in the Holy Trinity—Source, Word, and Breath of Life, God beyond us, beside us, and within us— whose light shines in every shadow and whose coming we await with hope and wonder.

Until Christ is born anew in every heart, we journey on in faith, watching, waiting, and welcoming Love into the world once more. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *The people may be seated.*

Leader: As we wait for Christ to come in victory, let us make our requests known to God who heals the lame and gathers the outcast, praying …
People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Leader: For the church throughout the world, that we may heed the prophet's word to be strong and not to fear:

- For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Deon, our Bishop, for Valori, Susanna, Jerre, Mandi, Paul, and Warren, our clergy, and for all the holy People of God;
- In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ironton; we pray for our Connections partner, the Faith Christian Church of India;
- In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah, the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, and for the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil;
- In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Rafael, their Bishop, and for Hogar Cristo Rey – Maria de los Angeles Cotto;

- In our parish family, we pray in thanksgiving for the Men of Emmanuel and for the thirty years of our outreach ministry with the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota;
- For those in our parish family celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week;

Let us pray…

People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Leader: For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, that they may have the wisdom and courage to seek peace and justice in the world; let us pray…

People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Leader: For all peoples of every race, nation, and disposition; may the wars on every continent cease, praying especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza; and may refugees, immigrants, and survivors find a new welcoming home and the spirit to begin again; let us pray…

People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Leader: For the sick and the suffering; for the hungry and the oppressed; for the homeless; for all who live in fear of separation of their homes and families; and the lonely and those in prison; let us pray…

People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Leader: For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need; in our parish family, we pray for Barb, Kevin and those we name either silently or aloud [pause]; we pray for all who struggle with addiction, that God may strengthen them in their recovery; we pray for those who endeavor in public service and those serving in the armed forces; let us pray…

People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Leader: For those who have died in the hope of resurrection, especially David Everson and Audrey Claxton, and for those who grieve; let us pray…

People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

The Celebrant may add a Concluding Collect

The Confession: Form B

Deacon/Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and one another. Source of all being..

People: We confess that we have chased busyness and neglected your gift of Sabbath. We have sought quick justice without deep mercy, and reconciliation without costly love. Forgive us, refresh us, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk again in the way of Christ.

Priest: Be assured that the Almighty God has granted you forgiveness of all your sins and has gifted you the companionship of the Holy Spirit. Your sins are forgiven. Be at peace.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Peace

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.	***Y con tu espiritu.***
Christu shanti meetho ellapudu undunnugaka.	***Neetho kooda.***
The peace of Christ be always with you.	**And also with you.**

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Those with birthdays or anniversaries are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem **E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come** **Paul O. Manz**
Emmanuel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood
That we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And might shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

The Doxology

The offerings are brought forward as the congregation sings the Doxology to the tune of Old Hundredth

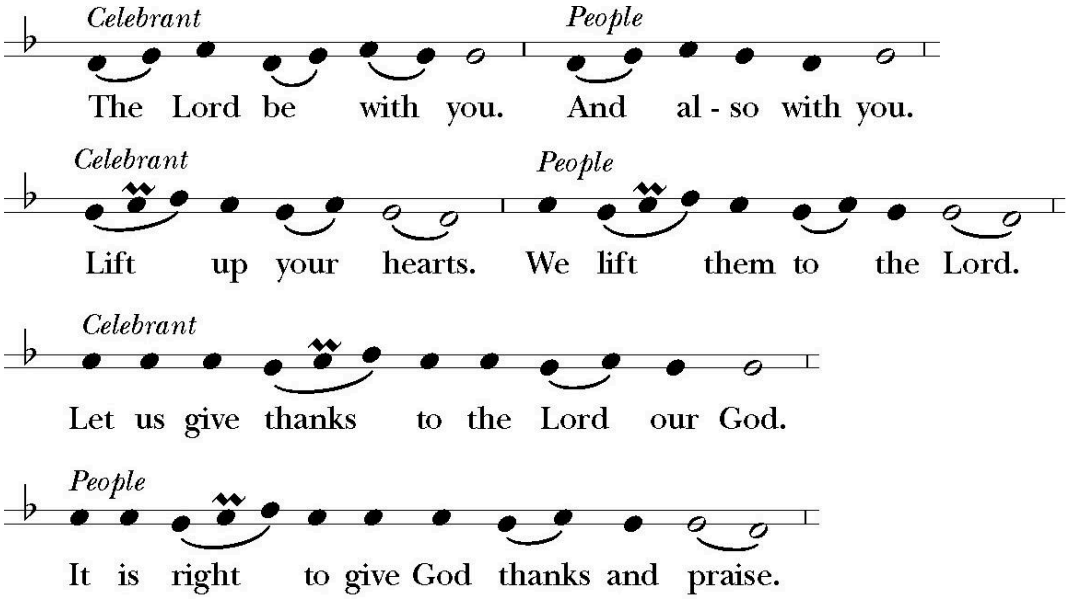
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures high and low
Praise God in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit One. Amen.

Gathering at Christ's Table: Eucharistic Prayer A BCP p. 365

At the 8:00 service

Celebrant	God be with you.
People	**And also with you**
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts
People	**We lift them to the Lord**
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

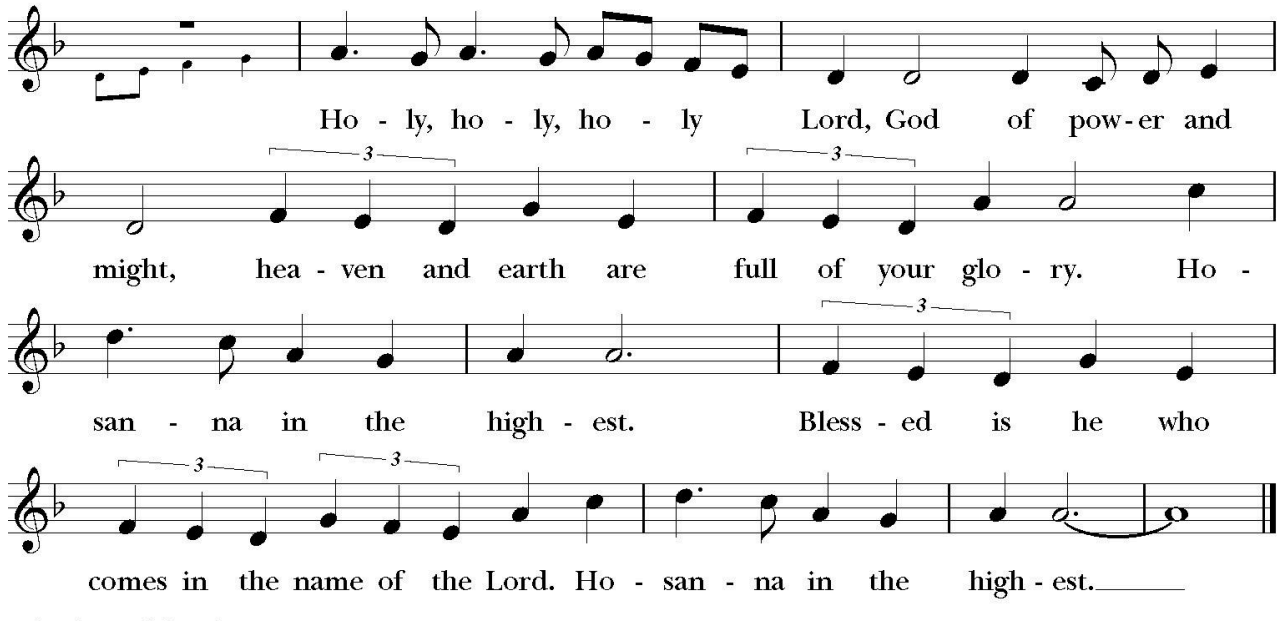
At the 9:30 service *Sanctus, S-120*



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People **Sanctus, S-129**



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The people may sit, stand, or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, Holy One, for in Jesus Christ, your Word took flesh and made a home among us. In him, your hope was kindled, your peace whispered into being, your love poured out without measure, and your joy made complete. Jesus came as one of us, to share our light and our shadow, our laughter and our tears. In his life, death, and rising, you revealed that nothing—neither darkness nor light—can separate us from your redeeming love.

On the night before he gave himself to us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

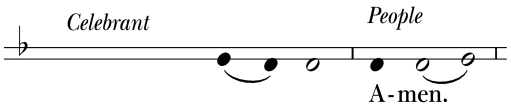
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

+ Come, O Spirit of Promise, and rest upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ; nourishment for our waiting, and strength for our journey. + Come, dwell within us, that we who share this holy meal may bear the light of hope, breathe the peace of Christ, embody love's compassion, and rejoice in all that gives life.
As we await the fullness of your reign, teach us to live as children of your Advent; awake and watchful, grateful and expectant, trusting in your promise that both night and day belong to you.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, now and for ever.



S 142

The Lord's Prayer, BCP p. 364 *The people may stand in body or spirit.*

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say in the language of our choice:

Our Father, who are 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.

Padre nuestro, que estas en el cielo
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

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.

This is God's table, where all are welcome to receive communion. 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 while or ever before; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

~ Adapted from the Iona Community invitation

About receiving Communion at Emmanuel:

The fullness of this sacrament is received by taking one or both kinds (bread and wine).

The ushers will guide you to Communion.

Bread: *All of our communion bread is gluten-free, nut-free, vegan, and dairy-free.The communion bread will be offered into your hands, not your mouth.*

Wine: *You may choose intinction (clergy will dip the Communion bread into wine). Please do not reach into the cup of wine. OR you may choose to drink from the common cup offered by the Eucharistic Minister.*

Blessing: *If you prefer not to receive the bread or wine, cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing.*
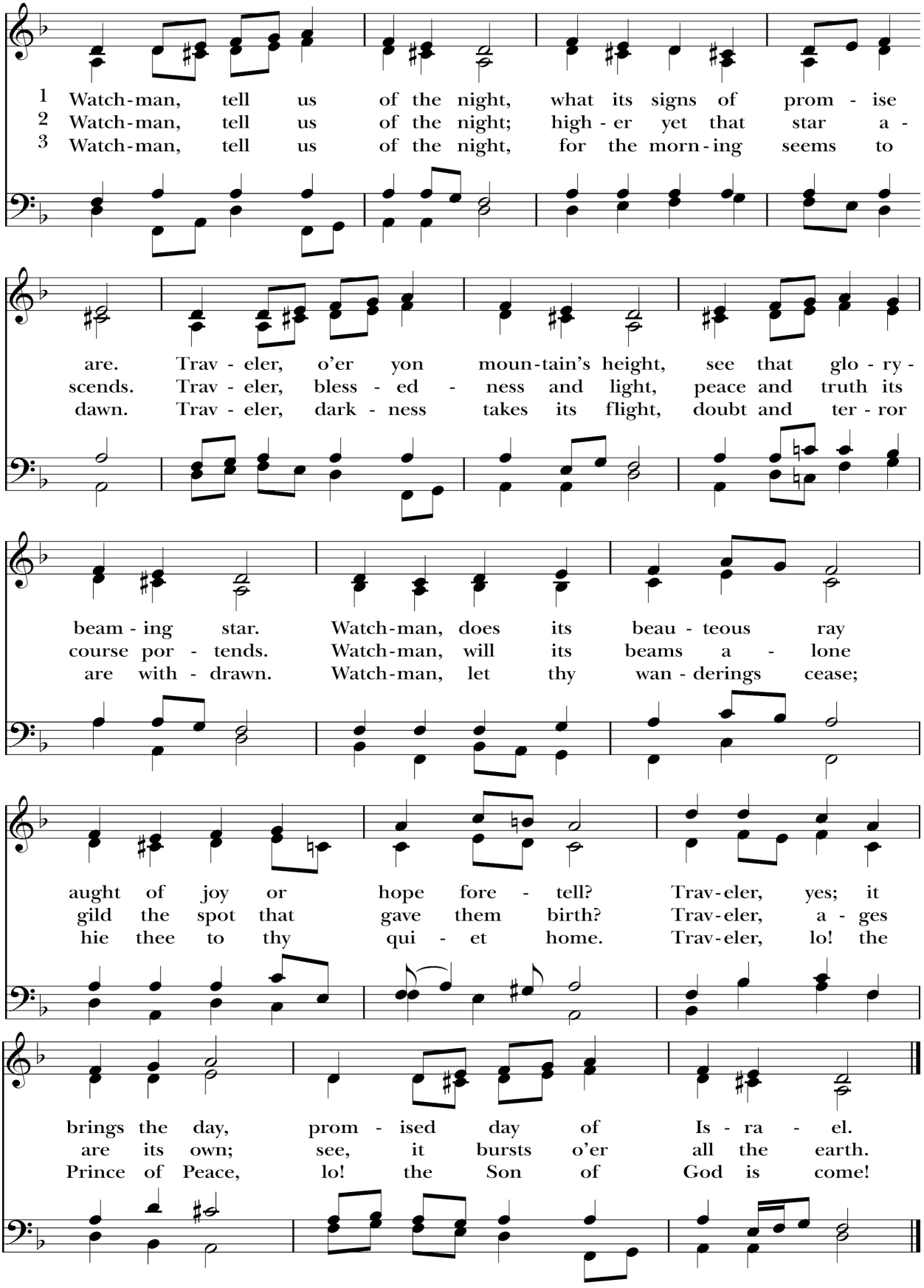
Communion Anthem — People, Look East — arr. Drew Collins
Emmanuel Small Ensemble

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.



Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).
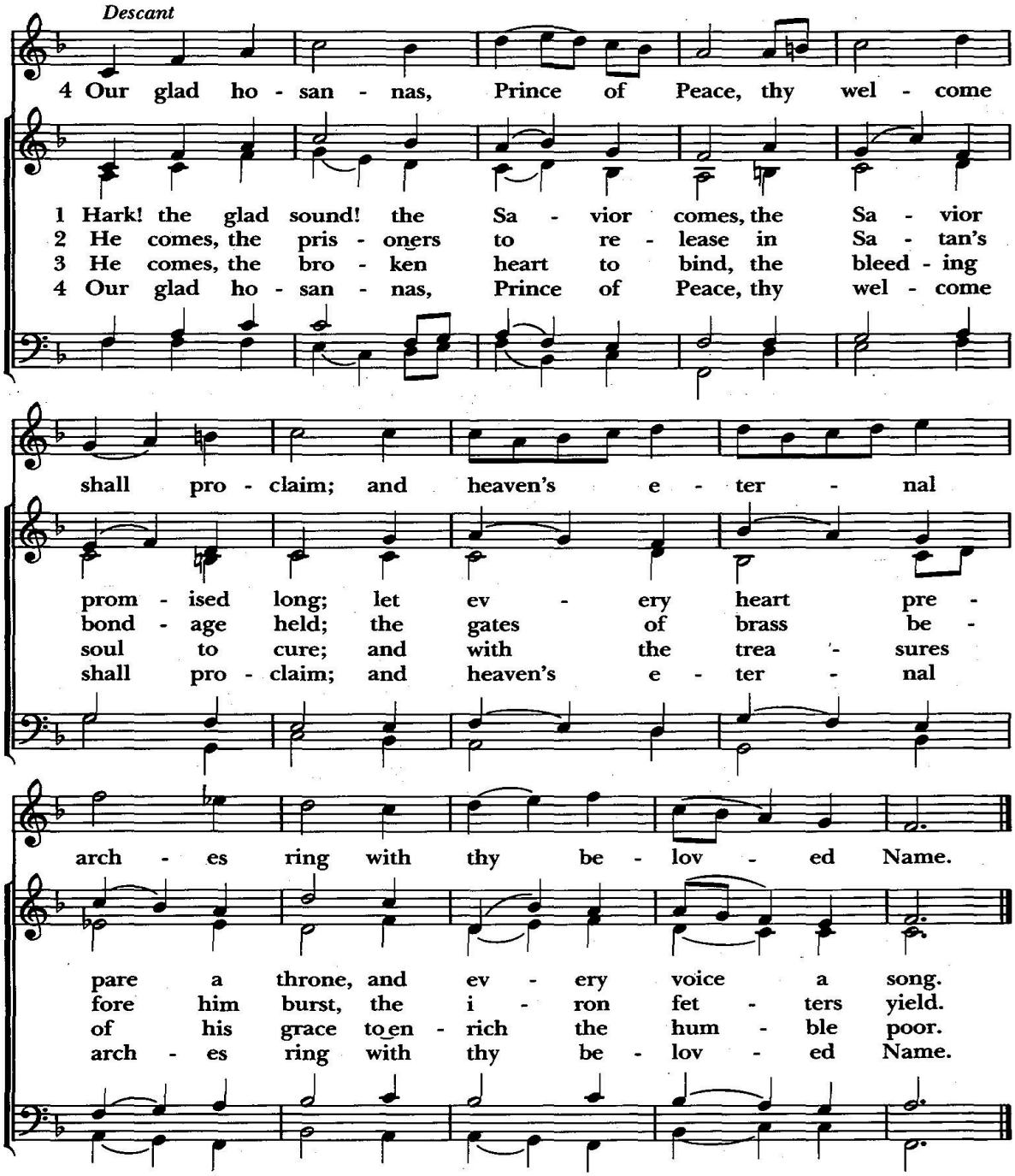
The Commendation of the Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant: Let us pray.

***People**: God of promise, we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and for gathering us into the mystery of your Advent: a time of waiting, watching, and expectation. Send us now into the world trusting in your faithful presence in all things at all times; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.*

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes Hymnal 72



Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)
Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816); harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971) CM

Deacon: Alleluia, alleluia! Our worship has ended. Now our service in the world begins.
Go into the world to love as God loves. Go in peace. Go in hope. Go in love.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude: Fughetta on "People Look East" Richard Shephard

The flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of
Dale and Pam Penrose's 24th Wedding Anniversary
By the Penroses'

A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD AT EMMANUEL - from our online Calendar

15	DEC, MON	10am – 1:30pm	ECM Gift Wrapping Event
		6:30 – 8pm	Vestry on Zoom
17	DEC, WED	8 – 9am	Bible Study via Zoom
		6 – 7pm	Fellowship Dinner
		6:30 – 7pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
		6:45pm	Blue Christmas Service
		7:05 – 8:05pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal Rehkopf Hall (Choir Room)
19	DEC, FRI	6 – 6:30pm	BLM Vigil
21	DEC, SUN	All day	Advent 4
		8 – 9am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
		9:30 – 10:30am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
		10:45 – 11:45am	Christian Education & Formation

The Prayers of the People are written by Deacon Jerre Birdsong.
The Opening Acclamation, Confession, Advent Affirmation, and Eucharistic Prayer are written by Bp. Deon K. Johnson

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OUR DIVINE PURPOSE STATEMENT

WE BELIEVE that we are called to live in service to others following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior, helping to heal a broken world and preserve God's creation. We believe God calls us to accept and celebrate everyone - LGBTQIA2S+, race/ethnicity, status, age, or ability - no exceptions.

WE WORSHIP in community, in-person and online. Grounded in the Book of Common Prayer, our prayer and music embraces diversity of spiritual life. All are invited to receive Holy Eucharist at God's table and to participate in worship. Children are a valued presence and contribute to worship.

WE SERVE all of God's people in partnership with our local, national, and international neighbors, learning from them and working with them toward true justice and equitable access to God's abundance.



EMMANUEL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Webster Groves, MO

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, Bishop of Missouri
The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer, Rector
The Rev. Susanna Clive, Associate Priest
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong, Deacon
The Rev. Dr. Warren E. Crews, Priest Affiliate
The Rev. Paul A. Metzler, Priest Affiliate
The Rev. Mandi Rice, Priest Affiliate

NINE SOUTH BOMPART, WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI 63119, TELEPHONE 314-961-2393