

# Emmanuel Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.



*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 Playground, or in the parish hall!  
Childcare is available in the nursery during the service.***

*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](http://www.emmanuelepiscopal.org). Wi-Fi: Emmanuel Guest - Password: Behold961*

*We respectfully recognize that we are on traditional, ancestral lands of the Kaskaskia, Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Myaamia, Očhéthi, Šakówin, O-ga-xpa Ma-zho" (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 towards racial justice, equity, liberation for all people.*

Prelude: Voluntary in G major, op. 7, no. 9 (10 Voluntaries), (Charles) John Stanley

Opening Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion, Hymnal 65



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!

2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.

His rule is peace and free-dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.

His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

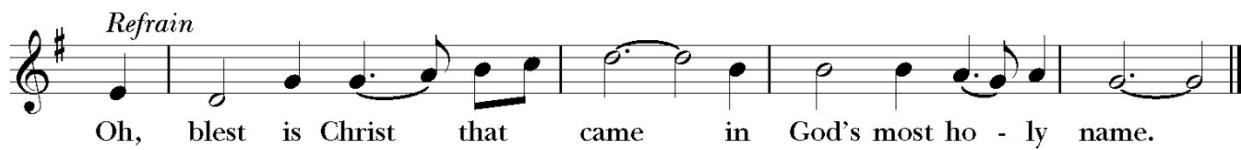


Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.

Lift high your praise re - sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.

All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

*Refrain*



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright ©1930 by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## Welcome

### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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, 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, BCP p. 355**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 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.**

*Children are invited to follow the crucifer to the Children's Chapel*

### **The Lessons**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. (61:1-4, 8-11)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126, *In convertendo*, BCP p. 782

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. (5:16-24)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: Wait for the Lord (sing 3 times), Taizé

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

© 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. (1:6-8, 19-28)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer**

*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.*

**The Nicene Creed, BCP p. 358**

**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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us offer our prayers to God who sends his Son as the true light into the world, praying, ...  
People: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Leader: We pray for the church throughout the world, that we may rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances:

- For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Valori, Sujanna, and Jerre our clergy, and for all the holy people of God;
- In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Jefferson City;
- In the Anglican Cycle, we pray for The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea;
- In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Mision San Jose de Armiatea in Aibonito, and Sergio, their Vicar;
- Locally, we pray for Churches Together for Justice and our sisters and brothers at Christ Lutheran Church;
- 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 govern with wisdom and mercy and work tirelessly for peace in the world; we pray for all those whose lives have been disrupted by war, especially the people of Ukraine and the Middle East; let us pray, ...

People: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Leader: For all peoples of every race, nation, and disposition; may your love so embrace us all, that its power overcomes our conflicts, defenses, and fears; let us pray, ...

People: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Leader: For the sick and the suffering, for the hungry, homeless, and the oppressed, and for refugees, immigrants, and those who live in fear of separation from their homes and families, 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 ... and for those we name either silently or aloud [pause]; for those serving in the armed forces; let us pray, ...

People: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Leader: For ourselves, our families, and companions, and all those we love; let us pray, ...

People: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Leader: For the dying and the dead, ... , and for those who grieve; let us pray, ...

People: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

The Confession and Absolution, BCP p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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**

<i>La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.</i>	<i>Y con tu espíritu.</i>
<i>Christu shanti meetho ellapudu undunnugaka.</i>	<i>Neetho kooda.</i>
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: Gaudete, arr. Michael Burkhardt  
Emmanuel Choir & Jacob Bisaillon, tambourine & drum

<i>Gaudete! Gaudete!</i>	<i>Rejoice! Rejoice!</i>
<i>Christus est natus ex Maria virgine:</i>	<i>Christ is born of the Virgin Mary:</i>
<i>Gaudete!</i>	<i>Rejoice!</i>

Now the time has come last, bringing joy and gladness; time foretold by sages past, healing earth's deep sadness.	Nature marvels at the sight, earth looks on in wonder: for the Lord of love and light rends the heavens asunder.	Christ is born: Emmanuel, hope of every nation! Therefore let us sing noel with the whole creation!
--	---	--

*The gifts are brought forward as the congregation sings the Doxology*

### **The Doxology**

**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.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367**

Celebrant: The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus, Hymnal S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

<sup>6</sup>  
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**  
*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the Mother of God, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

*This is God's table. All are welcome to receive communion.*

*Gluten-free bread is available; please ask the clergy.*

*Intinction is offered by the clergy and the common cup is offered by the Eucharistic Ministers.*

*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; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. ~ The Four-fold Franciscan blessing*

*Those worshiping online are invited to offer this prayer:*

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Communion Hymn: Watchman, tell us of the night, Hymnal 640

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise  
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -  
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -  
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its  
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray  
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone  
 are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges  
 hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day,      prom - ised day      of      Is - ra - el.  
 are its own;      see,      it      bursts      o'er      all the earth.  
 Prince of Peace,      lo!      the      Son      of      God      is      come!

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872)    Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903)

### The Commendation of the Eucharistic Visitors

*The people sit, stand, or kneel as is comfortable.*

*After communion, the Celebrant says: (BCP p. 365)*

Let us pray.

**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.**

### The Blessing

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

*Descant*

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be - sure -  
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

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

## **The Dismissal**

Deacon: Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude: Fanfare, Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

## **Liturgical Ministers**

Celebrant and Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer
Associate Priest	The Rev. Sujanna Raj
Deacon	The Rev. Jerre Birdsong
Minister of Ceremonies	Pam Belloli
Wreath Lighters	Stephanie and Alan Jeude
Lector	Lou Clauss
Psalmist/Epistoler	Susan Clauss
Intercessor	Janet Brown
Acolytes	Lydia Sabbath, Abe Ryan, Joe Ryan
Eucharistic Ministers	Lou Clauss, Janet Brown
Chalice bearer	Pam Belloli
Sanctus Bells	Patrick Smith
Ushers	Tim Chesney, John Long, Sharon Whalen, John Simon
Children's Chapel	Beth Knapp, Margo Smith
Organist and Director of Music	Jae Young Park
Emmanuel Choir Section Leaders	Lauren Romano, Patrick Zelaya
Emmanuel Children's Choir Director	Lauren Romano
Instrumentalist	Jacob Bisaillon, tambourine & drum
Vestry Representative	Allison Williams
Eucharistic Visitor	Katherine Ziegler
Tech Minister	Tom Jones

*From RiteSong. Copyright 2022 Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission.*

*Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-732271. All rights reserved.*

The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God  
in celebration of Dale and Pam Penrose's 22nd wedding anniversary.

## **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 - LGBTQIA+, 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.



Scan the QR codes for Emmanuel giving, news & information for newcomers

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** this year will benefit LifeWise StL Maternal Mental Health, which includes immigrant new mothers. Use the QR code below to access the Christmas Offering electronic giving.



*The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, Bishop of Missouri  
The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Sujanna Raj, Associate Priest  
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong, Deacon  
The Rev. Dr. Warren E. Crews, Priest Affiliate  
The Rev. Paul A. Metzler, Priest Affiliate*

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