Emmanuel Episcopal Church



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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.

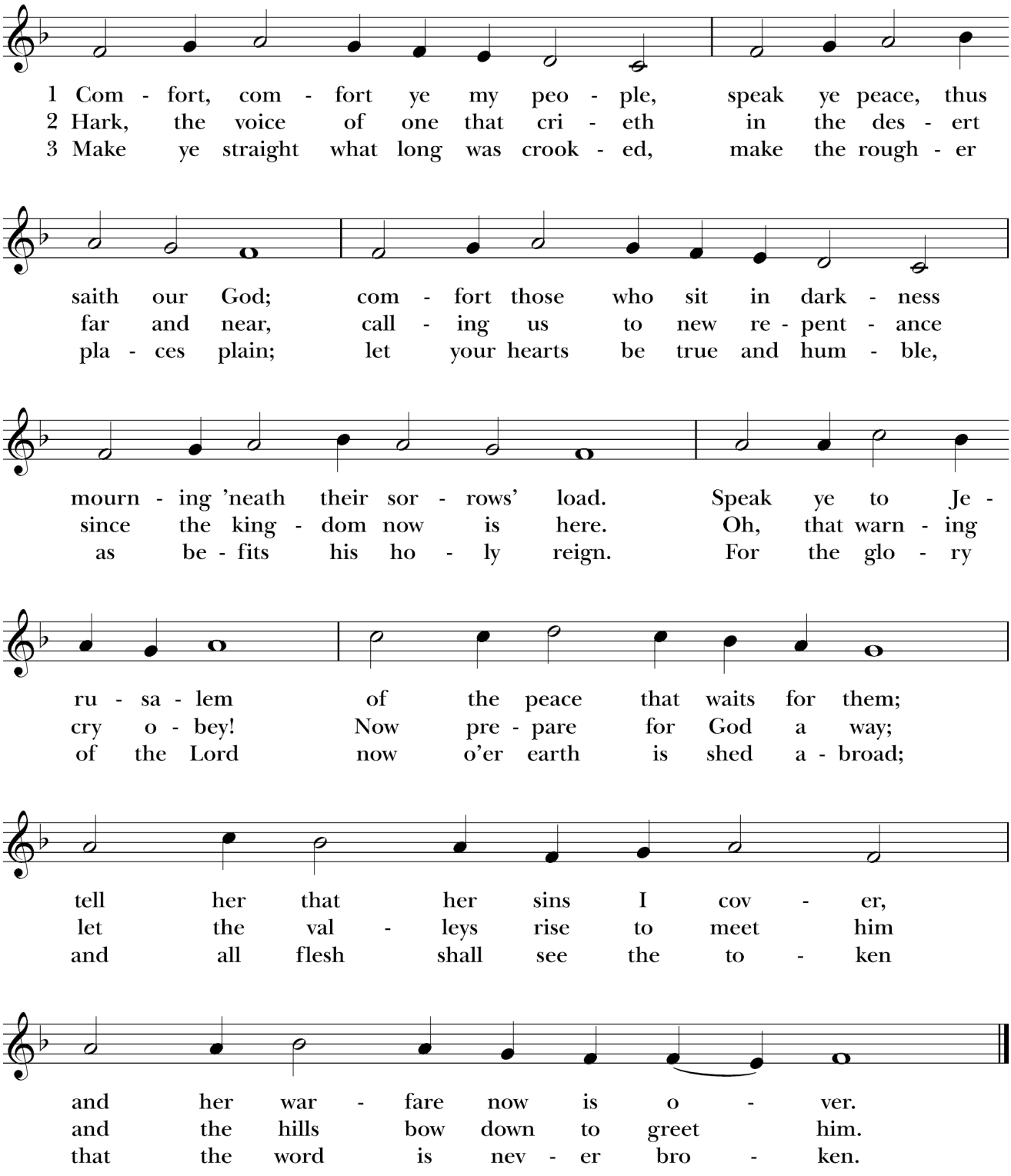
Full-service bulletins are available on our website along with the weekly announcements:
www.emmanuelepiscopal.org. Wi-Fi: Emmanuel Guest - Password: Behold961

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 Two Settings on “Lo, how a rose e'er blooming” Johannes Brahms & Gerald Near

Opening Hymn: Comfort, comfort ye my people Hymnal 67



Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

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

Reader: Last Sunday, we lit the first candle— the candle of hope. Today, we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

Two candles are lit.

Hymn O come, O come, Emmanuel (vs. 7 only), Hymnal 56

O come, desire of Na–tions bind
In one the hearts of all– humankind;
Bid thou our sad divi–sions cease
And be thyself our King– of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emman–uel shall come to thee, O Is–rael!

All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Reader: Take your encouragement from Christ, that your joy may be complete.

All: We will share in the Spirit; we will find consolation in love.

Reader: Practice a ministry of humility and compassion, for God is at work in you, empowering you.

All: We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will live lives worthy of the Gospel.
We will go forth in hope and in peace.

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Special Music Advent Canon arr. Karl Hitzemann
Emmanuel Children's Choir

Advent, Advent, we wait for Jesus
He came to earth to save us
We light a candle every week
Watch it glow on the Advent wreath

The children are led out to Children's Chapel.

The Lessons

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with

righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. (11:1-10)

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 **Deus, judicium** BCP, 685

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

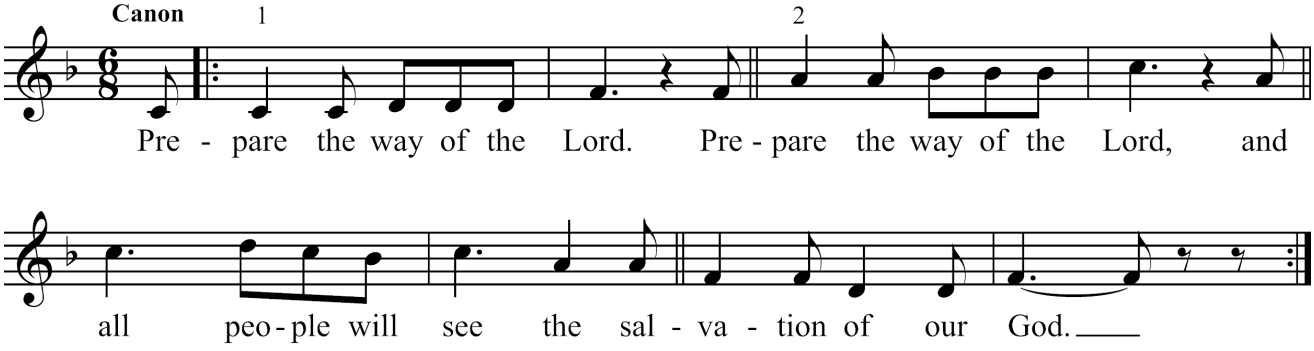
"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (15:4-13)

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

Sequence Hymn Prepare the way of the Lord My Heart Sings Out 61

Before the Gospel: Sing 3 times. 1st time: All together. Thereafter: Low voices begin; high voices follow in canon. | After the Gospel: As before.



Words: based on *Luke 3:4, 6,* adapt. The Taizé Community.
Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1984 by Les Presses de Taizé (France). (Words and Music admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (3:1-12)

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

Leader: As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who will lead us with joy in the light of God's glory, praying …

People: Come, O Lord, and save us.

Leader: We pray for the church throughout the world, that we may receive the mercy and righteousness that come from you:

- 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 Trinity Episcopal Church in DeSoto; 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 Church of Bangladesh;
- In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Rafael their Bishop and for Mision San Gabriel Arcangel in Humacao;
- In our parish family, we pray in thanksgiving for the Women of Emmanuel and the prayer shawl ministry and for our outreach with our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries and Webster-Rock Hill Ministries;
- 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 and equity for all your children; 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; we pray especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza; 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, immigrants, and refugees; for all who live in fear of separation from their homes and families; and for 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 and for 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 the dying and the dead, especially David Everson, 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 **A Shoot Shall Come Forth** **Richard Horn**
Emmanuel Choir

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, and a bud shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of life shall be with him, the spirit of wisdom and truth.

Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,
for the hand of a Child shall lead them to the peaceable kingdom of God.

From out of the wells of salvation will he draw us the water of life;
his waist shall be girdled with justice, the heart of his heart shall be Love.

He'll come from the end of his heaven, and the earth shall be torn from its place;
Our lives shall be filled with his radiance as floodwaters cover the sea.

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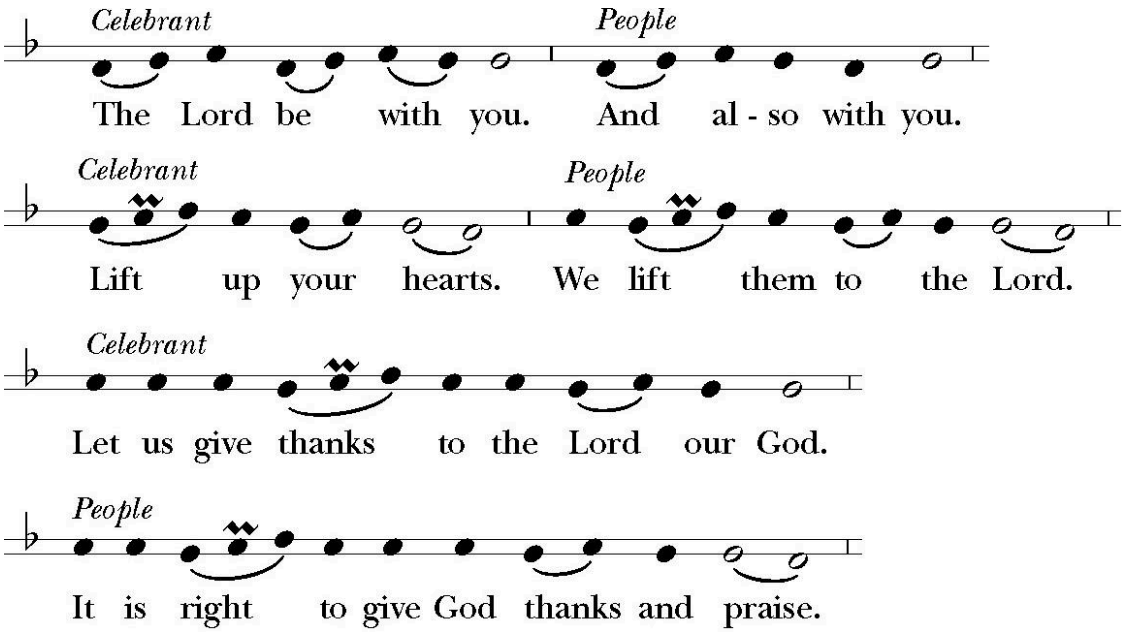
Gathering at Christ's Table: Eucharistic Prayer A BCP p. 365

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**

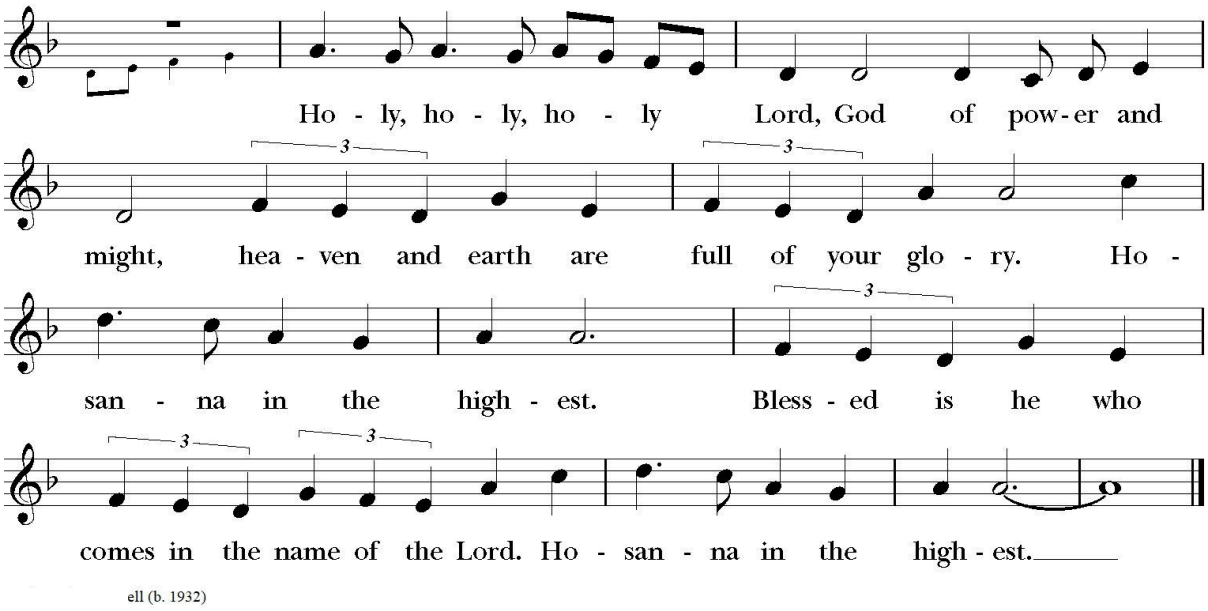
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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



The people may 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."

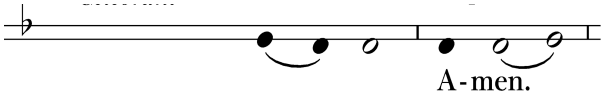
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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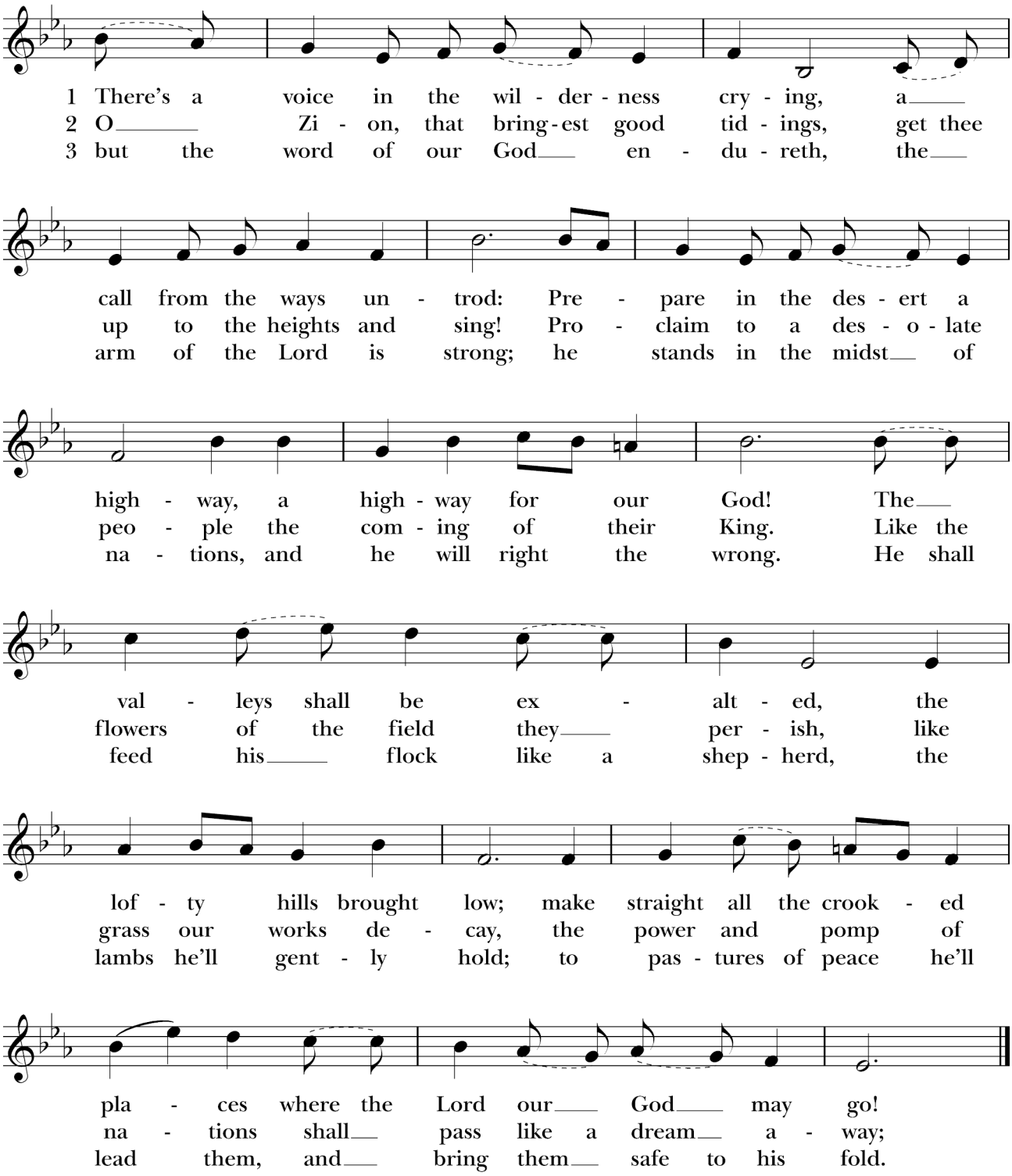
The fullness of this sacrament is received by taking one or both kinds (bread and wine).

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.*

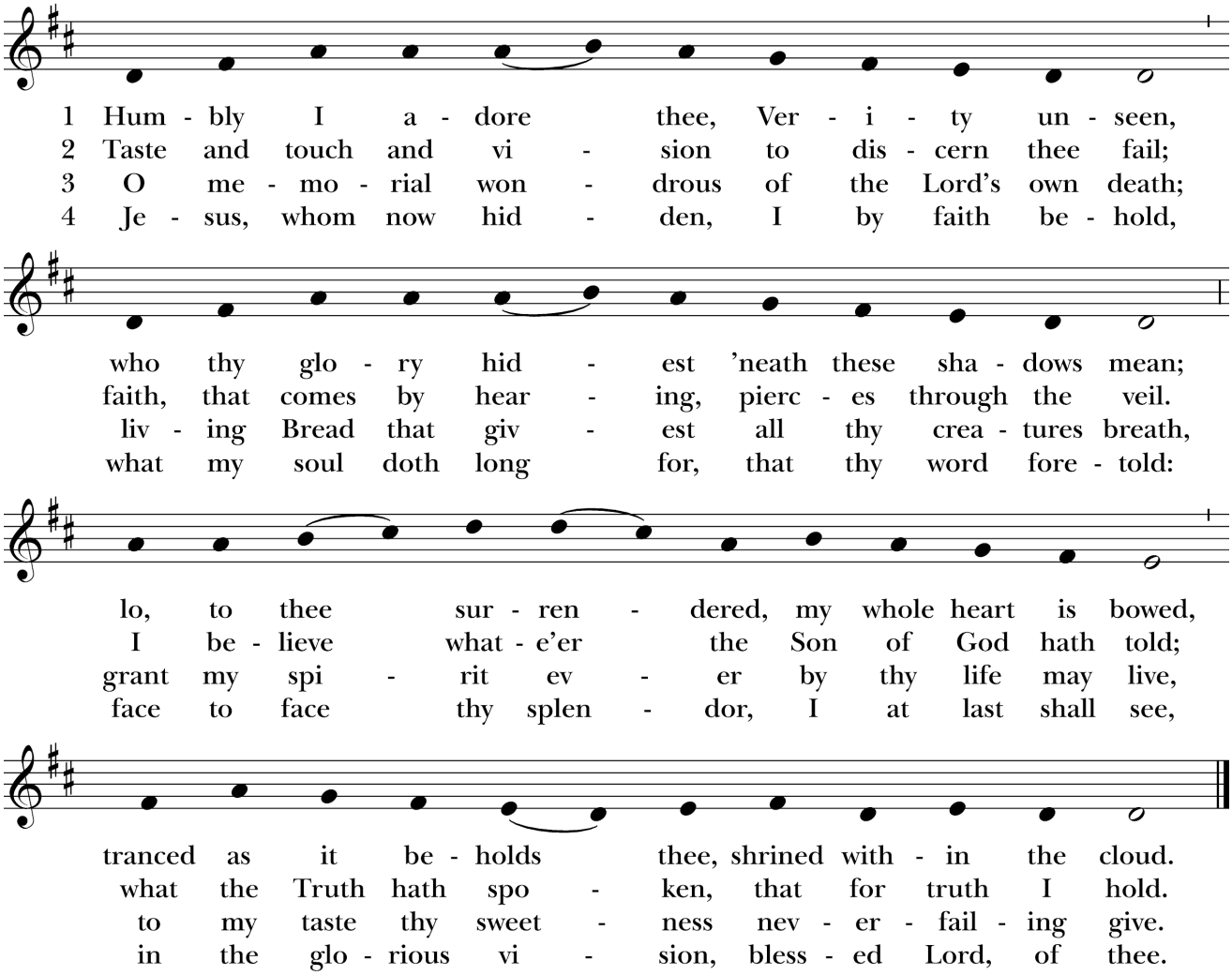
Wine: *You may choose intinction (clergy will dip the Communion bread into wine). Please do not reach into the cup of wine. OR you may choose to drink from the common cup offered by the Eucharistic Minister.*

Blessing: *If you prefer not to receive the bread or wine, cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing.*



Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen Hymnal 314



Words: Att. Thomas Aquinas (1225?-1274); sts. 1-3, tr. *Hymnal 1940*; st. 4, tr. *Hymnal 1982*. Sts. 1-3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Adoro devote*, French church melody, Mode 5, *Processionale*, 1697; acc. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt.

The Commendation of the Eucharistic Visitors

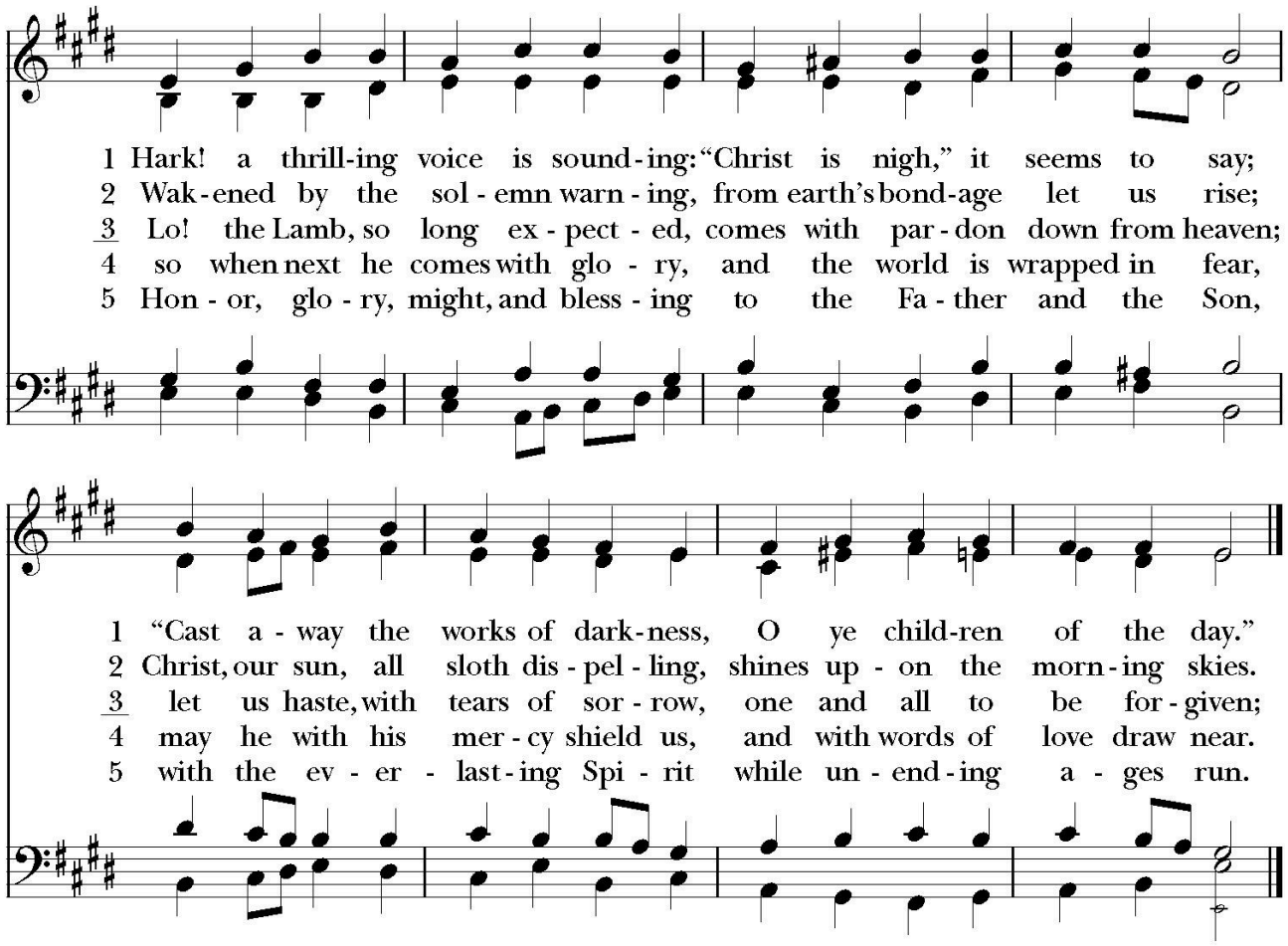
Celebrant: Let us pray.

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! a thrilling voice is sounding Hymnal 59

Note: Descant sheet for sopranos based on re-harm (not hymnal)



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern,* 1861, alt. Music: *Merton,* William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The Dismissal

Deacon: 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: Toccata on "Great Day" arr. Adolphus Hailstork

The flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the wedding of Allison Berg and Thomas Florent
By William Florent

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

8	DEC, MON	1 – 2pm	Knitting group Behold Room
9	DEC, TUE	6:30 – 7:30pm	Finance committee
10	DEC, WED	8 – 9am	Bible Study via Zoom
		6 – 7pm	Earthlove Pillar Meeting
		6 – 7pm	Fellowship Dinner
		6:30 – 7pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal
		6:45 – 7pm	Taizé Service
		7:05 – 8:05pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal Rehkopf Hall (Choir Room)
11	DEC, THU	5:30 – 9pm	Isaiah 58 Board Meeting Parish Hall
12	DEC, FRI	6 – 6:30pm	BLM Vigil
14	DEC, SUN	All day	Advent 3 and Hanging of the Greens
		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