

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

C = Congregation L = Leader ELW = Red Hymnal

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *Give Thanks,* arr. Patricia Sanders Cota
ORLC Handbells

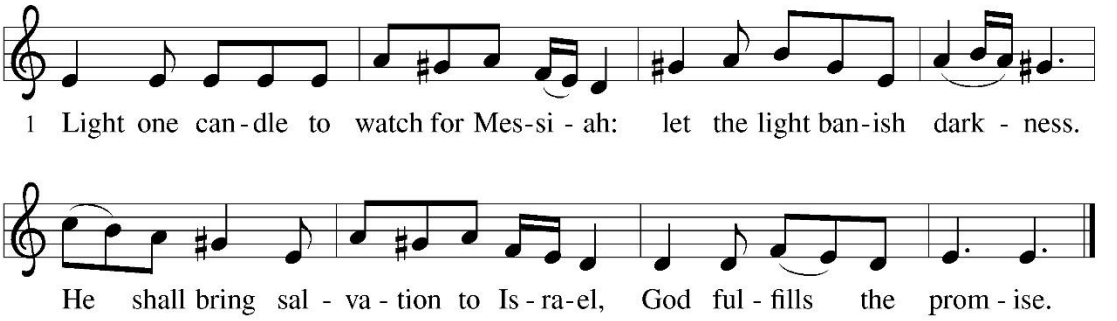
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: In God's house,
C: we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
L: In God's house,
C: we may come exactly as we are.
L: In God's house,
C: we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
L: In God's house,
C: all are welcome and all are heard.
L: So come and worship.
C: God is here. God is listening.
L: Let us worship our with-us God.

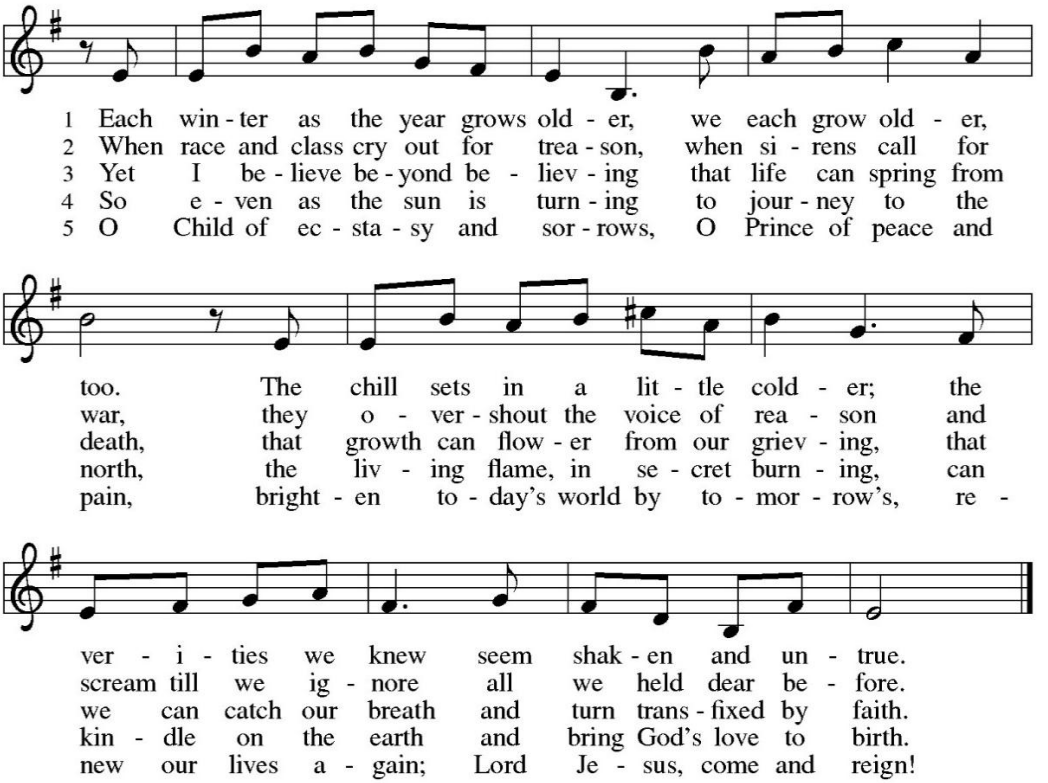
CANDLE LIGHTING *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah,* ELW 240



L: Like the stars above,
may this light shine bright.
May it guide our path.
May it inspire deeper hope.

**C: Until God's promised day,
may it be so. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Each Winter As the Year Grows Older,* ELW 252

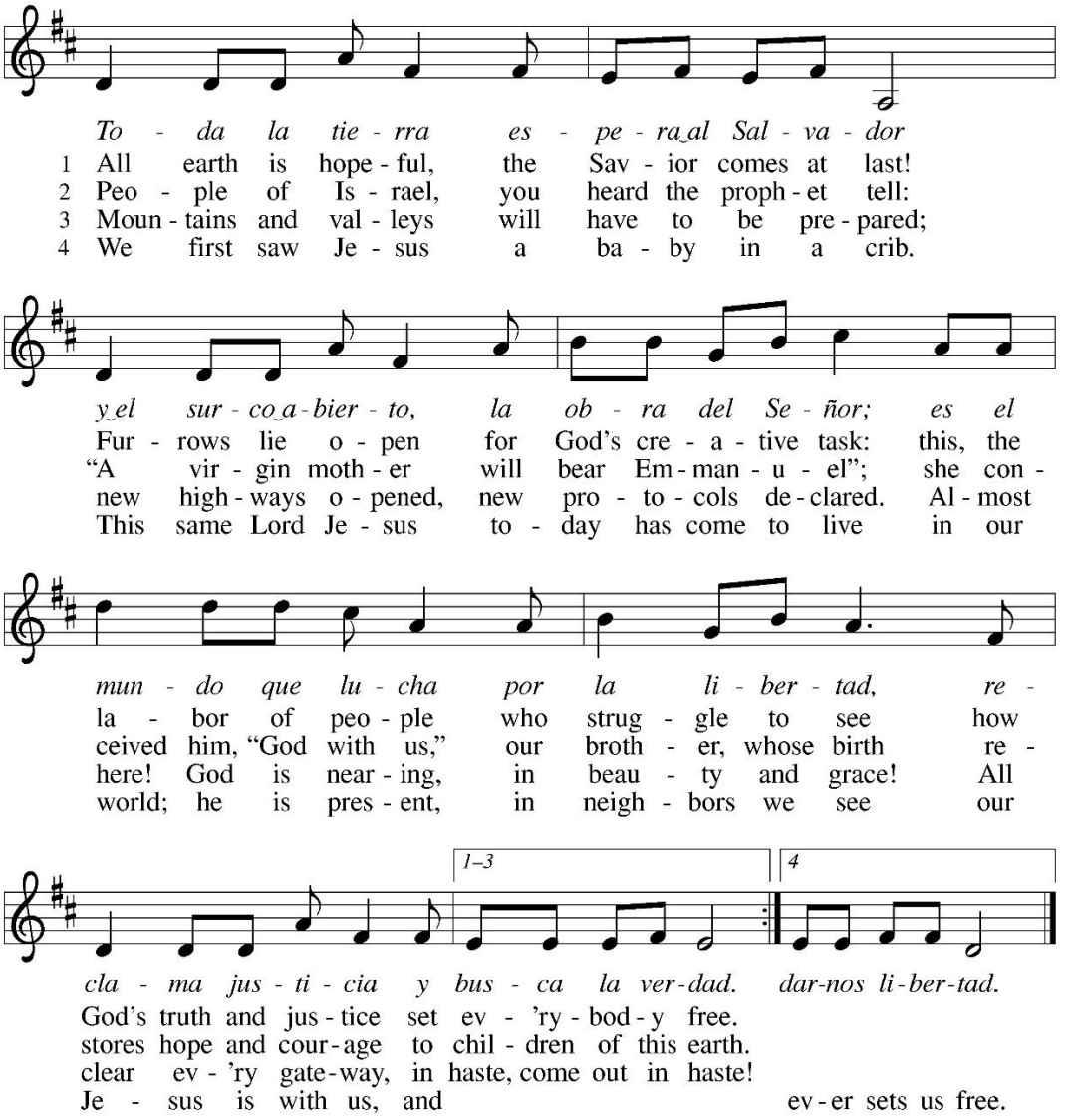


GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

SONG OF PRAISE *All Earth Is Hopeful/Toda la tierra,* ELW 266



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Gracious God, for generations, we have cried out to you, and you have listened. So as we turn to hear your Word read and proclaimed, give us the ability to listen as well as you do. Give us the ears and the heart to hear your words. In hope we pray.

C: Amen

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

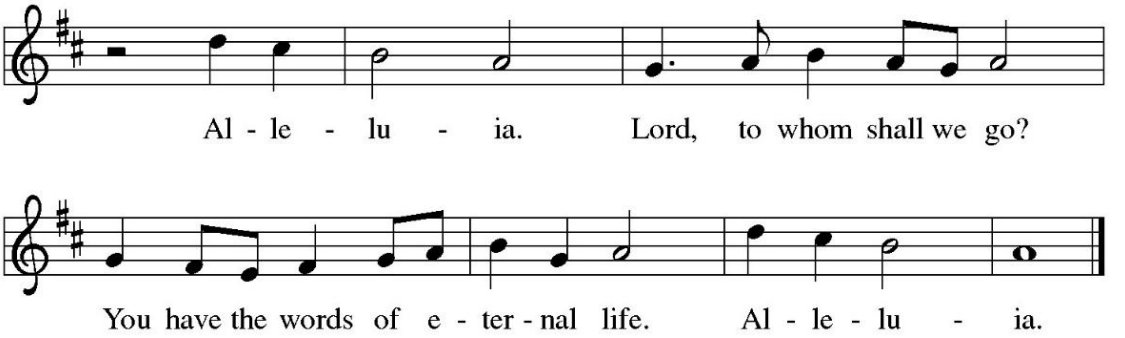
FIRST READING **Isaiah 64:1-9**

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name

or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

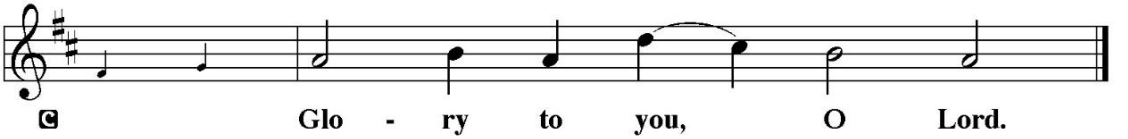
L: Word of God, Word of Life:
C: Thanks, be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



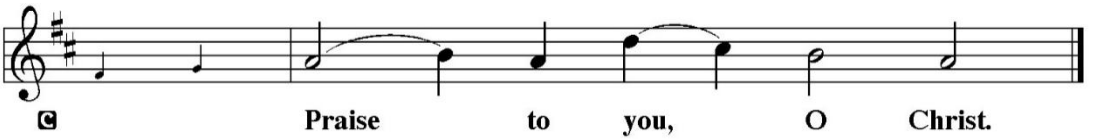
GOSPEL **Mark 13:24-37**

L: The Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the 13th chapter.



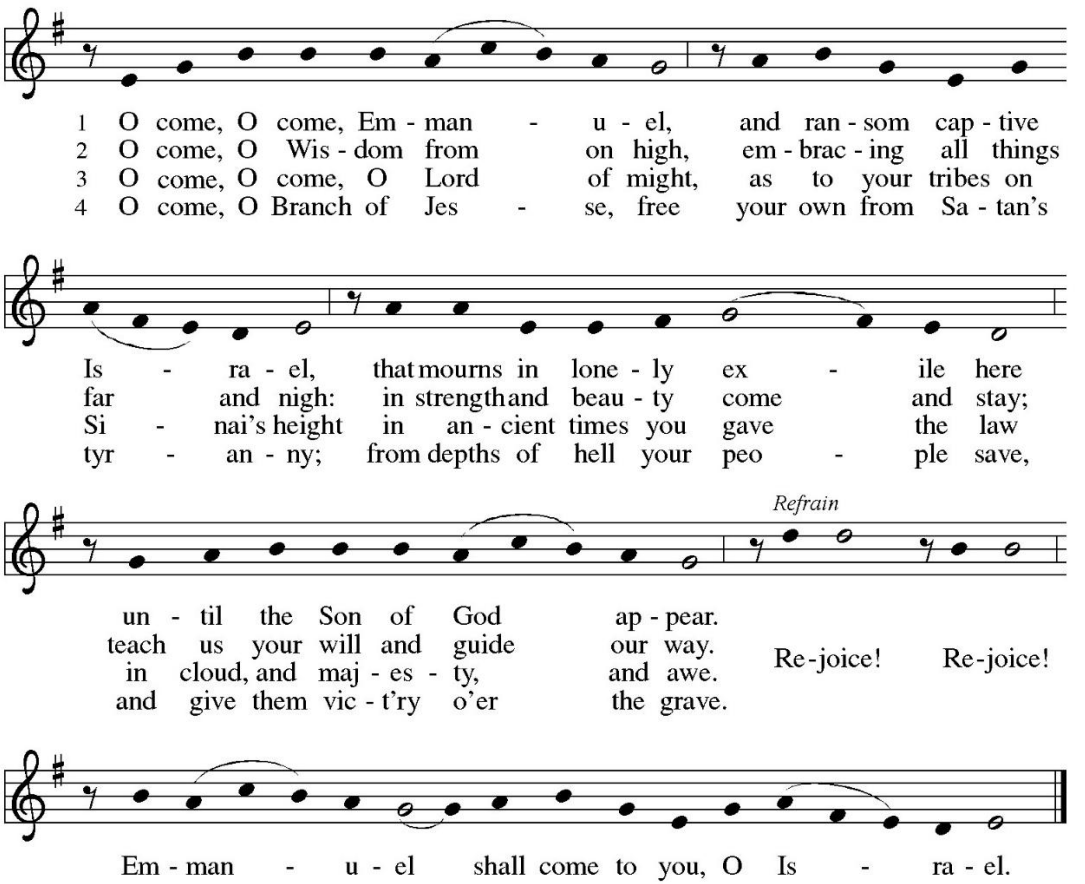
Jesus said: [24] “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened, and
the moon will not give its light,
[25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and
the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26] “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man
coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels
and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of
heaven. [28] “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see
these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell
you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
[31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. [32] “But about
that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only
the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It
is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
[35] Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will
come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, [36] or else he may
find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON Reverend Bethany Ketchem

SONG OF THE DAY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,* ELW 257



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church…
Each petition ends with:

C: receive our prayer.

L: We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

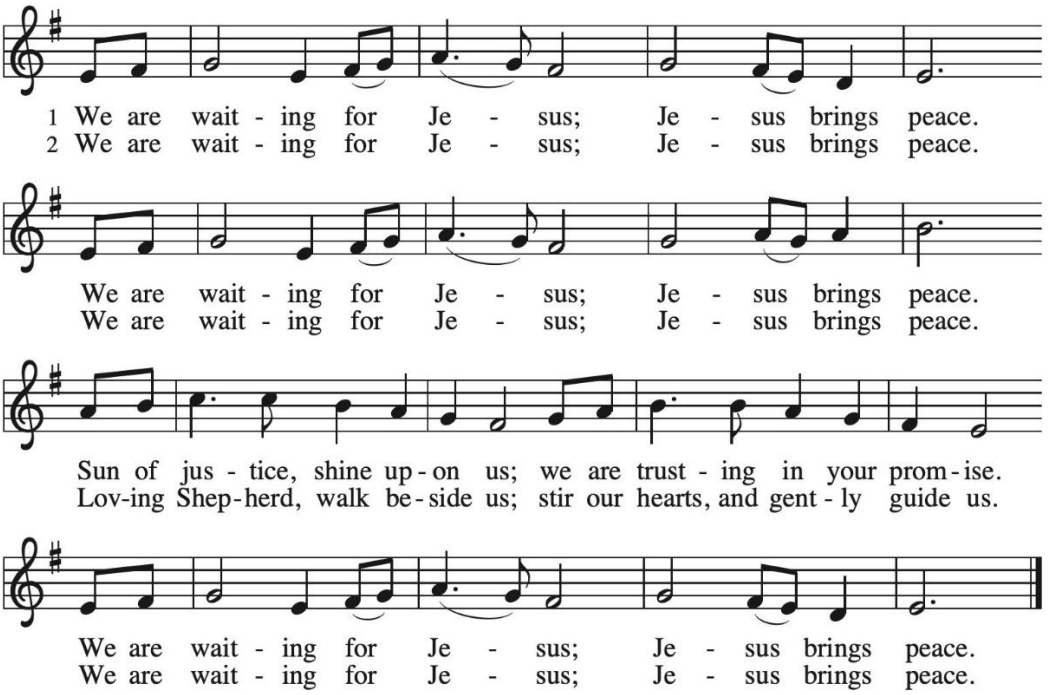
PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING *To God Be the Glory,* arr. Robert Edgar Horton
ORLC Handbells

OFFERING RESPONSE *We Are Waiting for Jesus*



OFFERING PRAYER

L: Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

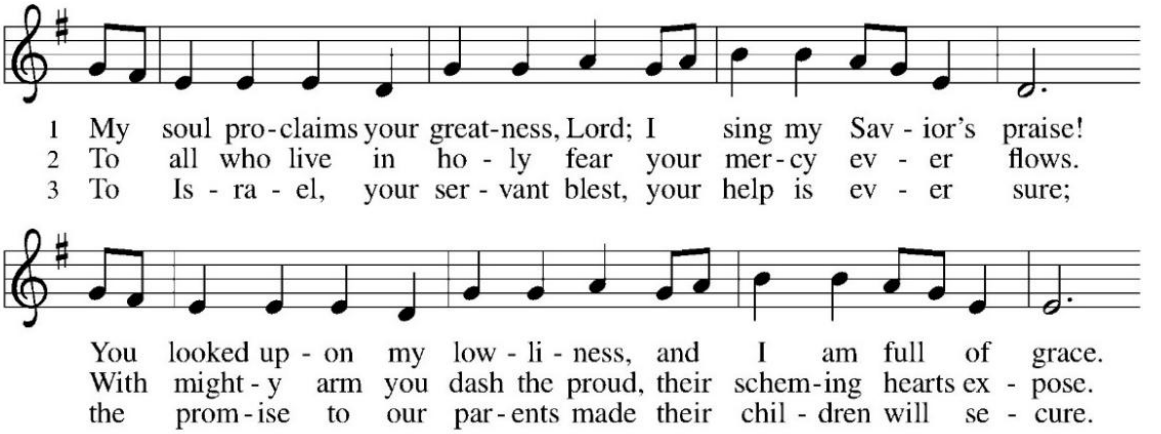
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

L: As you leave this place, may you speak the truth in love, may you hold fast to courage, may you be quick to joy, may you listen for the angels, and may you build each other up, until we reach God's promised day— when the lion will lie down with the lamb and the sun will rise over all of us. That is what we move toward. That is what we dream of. So look toward the horizon, and go with hope. Go in peace..

C. Amen

SENDING SONG *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*, ELW 251



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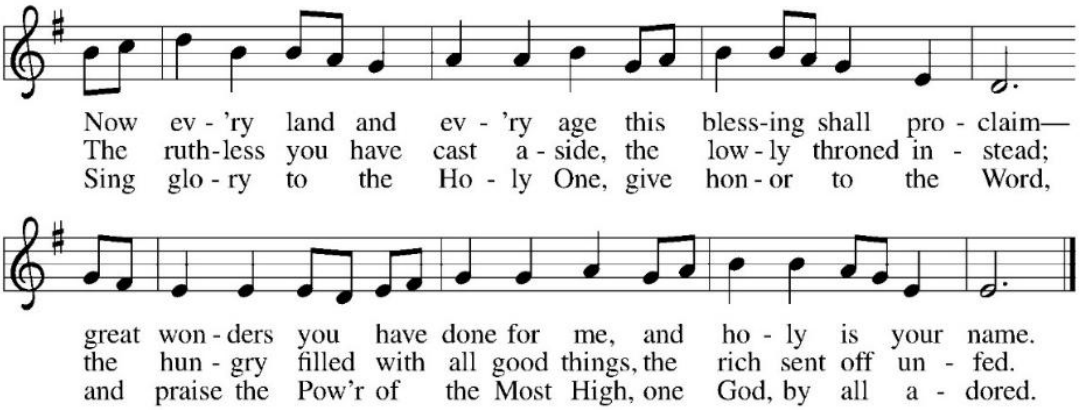

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bakers Wanted! The 25th Annual Cookie Sale is coming soon! Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. We are looking for cookie bakers and candy makers! There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk, or you can reach out to Carmen, Holly or email the church. Come and get your holiday treats as well, the cost is $8 per dozen or as packaged. Join us for one final cookie sale and purchase a cookie recipe book honoring 25 years of baking!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who helped yesterday with decorating the Church for Christmas.

Gift Cards will be available for purchase and to order next Sunday, December 6. Christmas is coming soon, so let us help you with your shopping. Stop by the Bucks for our Building Gift Card Table next Sunday to purchase or special order cards from a variety of establishments. This will be the last day to order cards to get them before Christmas. We will be depleting our inventory for year-end, so make sure you order the cards you want.

Prayers & Praises of the People:

- Prayers for Diana Ersfeld for strength and healing during her health care journey.
- Prayers of peace and comfort for Kathi Kirchoff.
- Prayers for Sherry and Jeff Pasket for their continued care.
- Prayers for Sharon Peterson as she continues to recover.
- Prayers for healing for Judy Koza.

Participants in Today's Service	
Pastor	Rev. Bethany Ketchem
Worship & Music Director	Jeremy Mattson
Director of Choir and Handbells	Alex Carlson
Soundboard & Livestream	Beth Renfors
Lector	Dianne Derks

Lessons for next week, December 6th: Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8
Next week's lector: Jane Koza

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