



THIRD SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

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**THE ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 11, 2022 - 8:00 AM**

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today! We celebrate together God's work in our lives as we receive His Word and Sacraments to strengthen our relationship with Him and one another. By the blood of Christ, we are made the household of God. Here, God builds us up by grace, through faith, and for service!

**LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY**

The promise of the prophets was heralded by John the Baptist. God has become His peoples' Savior. This is an occasion for great joy. It is a time to ready our hearts for Him Who is present with us now; so we may be prepared through repentance and faith for His return in glory. As we prepare to remember our Lord's first coming in flesh, we are made ready by His coming in Word and Sacrament to meet Him when He comes again in His glory, at the end of all the ages. Christians must be careful not to judge by what we see, for the promise of the Father is a new heaven and a new earth. What we see around us may seem desolate, but God is at work bringing forth the fulfillment of His promise. It is this grace that sustains us today and prepares us for an eternal tomorrow.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

**PRELUDE**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* – P. Manz

**GREETING**

❖ **INVOCATION**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C Amen.

❖ **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*THE THIRD CANDLE: THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE*

P As we light the third candle on our Advent wreath, the shepherds' candle,  
we recall the shepherds outside Bethlehem who heard the news of Jesus' birth and  
came to worship Him. Remembering their joy and witness, we pray:

C **Merciful Father, as with the shepherds of old, bring to us once again the  
Good News that the Savior has come. Then send us to share the Good News  
with others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

❖ **SONG**

*We Light the Candle*

**We light the candle of joy, we light the candle of joy.  
This candlelight, burning bright reminds us that Christ brings joy.  
We light the candle of joy, we light the candle of joy.  
He's coming soon, Immanuel, Jesus will bring us joy.**

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**BAPTISM OF HADLEY LYNN HOWELL**

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew,  
*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all  
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*  
In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises,  
*“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”*

P And the apostle Peter has written,  
*“Baptism now saves you.”*  
*(Matthew 28:18b-19; Mark 16-16a; 1 Peter 3:21)*

P The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are  
under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own.  
We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting  
condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

*The pastor addresses the parents and sponsors:*

P How is this child named?

R *Hadley Lynn Howell.*

*The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:*

P *Hadley*, receive the sign of holy cross upon your ✠ forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all, and though You drowned the host of Egypt in the Red Sea, You led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. Receive *Hadley* according to Your boundless mercy and bless her with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in her would be drowned and die. Grant that she be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, serving Your Name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your Promise, she would be declared worthy of Eternal Life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

*If sponsors/godparents are present:*

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

*The pastor addresses the sponsors/godparents (or those who stand in for them):*

P Is it your intention to serve *Hadley* as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

**C** Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

*They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.*  
*(Mark 10:13-16 NKJV)*

*The pastor addresses the parents:*

P *Zachary and Kelly*, do you promise faithfully to bring *Hadley* to the Lord's house, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, and as she grows in years, place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that living in the covenant of her baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the Day of Jesus Christ?  
If you so promise, answer, "I do."

R *I do.*

P Let us gather at the font of Christ.

*The pastor addresses the candidate, with the baptismal party [and congregation] answering with them:*

P *Hadley*, do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**C Yes, I renounce him.**

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth?

**C Yes, I believe.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

**C Yes, I believe.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?  
C **Yes, I believe.**

P *Hadley*, do you desire to be baptized?  
R *Yes.*

*The pastor pours water three times on the candidate while saying:*

P *Hadley Lynn Howell*, I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:*

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.  
C **Amen.**

*The pastor or liturgist lights a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and gives it to the family of the newly baptized saying:*

P *Hadley*, receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world.  
Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which shall have no end.

*The newly baptized is welcomed with the following:*

A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heirs with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.  
C **Amen. We welcome you in the Name of the Lord.**

P Let us pray.  
 Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You Graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted *Hadley* the new birth in Holy Baptism and made her a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your Heavenly Kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as she has now become Your child, You would keep her in her baptismal grace,  
 P that according to Your good pleasure she may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your Holy Name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in Heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
 C **Amen.**

P Peace ☩ be with you.  
 C **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

*Isaiah 35:1-10* [ESV]

*(Isaiah prophecies a time of joy.)*

**35** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

<sup>9</sup> 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.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall

return and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSE

P Be glad and rejoice with all your heart.  
C **The Lord your God is with you; He is mighty to save.**

P He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His Love.  
C **He will rejoice over you with singing.**

## ❖ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is Faithful and Just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **Most Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Will and walk in Your Ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a Called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**



❖ **ENTRANCE HYMN**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – arr. D. Willcocks

**(LSB 357)**

Sanctuary Choir

*Choir*    *O come, O come, Emmanuel!*  
*Redeem Thy captive Israel,*  
*That into exile drear is gone*  
*Far from the Face of God's Dear Son.*

**Refrain**        **All**        **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Choir Men*        *O come, Thou Branch of Jesse! Draw*  
*The quarry from the lion's claw;*  
*From the dread caverns of the grave,*  
*From nether hell, Thy people save.*  
Refrain

*Choir Trebles*    *O come, O come, Thou Dayspring bright!*  
*Pour on our souls Thy healing light;*  
*Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,*  
*And pierce the shadows of the tomb.*  
Refrain

*Choir Men*        *O come, Thou Lord of David's Key!*  
*The royal door fling wide and free;*  
*Safeguard for us the Heavenward road,*  
*And bar the way death's abode.*  
Refrain

*Choir*              *O come, O come, Adonai,*  
*Who in Thy Glorious Majesty*  
*From that high mountain clothed with awe*  
*Gavest Thy folk the elder Law.*

**Refrain**        **All**        **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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❖ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P**        The Lord be with you.

**C**        **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.  
C **Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your Gracious Visitation;**  
C **for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## EPISTLE

*James 5:7-11 [ESV]*

*(The apostle encourages us to follow the prophets' example of patience as we await the coming of the Lord.)*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

<sup>8</sup> You also, be patient.

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

<sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged;

behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

<sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast.

You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ❖ VERSE

*Matthew 11:10*

C **Alleluia. Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your Way before You. Alleluia.**

## ❖ HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 11:2-15 [ESV]*

*(Jesus is the promised Messiah Whose ministry gives evidence to His identity.)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

<sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

<sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

<sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

<sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.

Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

<sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

<sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

<sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Hark the Glad Sound*

LSB 349

**1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.**

**2. He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.**

**3. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**

## 4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim, And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy belovèd name.

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### SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

A Real-World Savior, for Christmas

*Matthew 11:2-15*

### ❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3*)

Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

### OFFERING

(The offerings of God’s people will be received through electronic giving,  
and in baskets located at the doors. Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pads.)

### MUSICAL OFFERING

*The Truth from Above* – arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Sanctuary Choir

1. *This is the Truth sent from above,  
The Truth of God, the God of Love,  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.*

2. *The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell  
Woman was made with man to dwell.*

3. *Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run  
That He would redeem us by His Son.*

4. *And at that season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear;  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands He did teach.*

5. *Thus He in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what He did say.*

❖ **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P People of God, the prophets invite us to give thanks to the Lord and to call on His Name. Come before Him now with humble and joy-filled hearts.

C **Lord, setting aside all anxiety, we bring to You our prayers and petitions with thanksgiving; confident that You hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

P Remove all fear from our hearts, O God; do not let Satan terrorize us with our sin or cause us to doubt Your Love and our salvation.

C **Increase our joy, O Lord, for You are our Strength, our Song and our Salvation.**

P May Your Kingdom come among us, Lord, as we proclaim that Your Name is exalted.

C **Bless our missionaries as they make known among the nations what You have done.**

P We rejoice in the gift of the Church, O Lord. In times of conflict, bring peace. Lead us all to agree with one another in the Lord; and to work with one another to Your honor and Glory.

C **May Your Spirit continually produce fruit in our lives that is in keeping with repentance. Teach us to share with those in need. Build in us integrity as we await Christ's return.**

P O Lord, our Lord, great are You, the Holy One of Israel.

C **Be great among us today and every day; and give us joy in our salvation.**

P O Lord, we profess that You are mighty to save. Take delight in Your servants who are in need of Your powerful hand this day in their lives.

C **Give to them that peace that passes all understanding. Guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

*After each additional petition:*

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

C **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 forever and ever. Amen.**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
C **Amen.**

❖ **HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**LSB 338**

**1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**2. Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Hark the Glad Sound* – P. Manz

+ + + + + + + +

**Servants in Worship**

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke  
Presiding Minister.....Rev. Zach Sarrault  
Organist/Director.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry  
Lector.....Larry Cameron  
Camera Operator.....Garett Nigg  
Live Stream Producer.....Susan Moore

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A Real-World Savior for Christmas (Matthew 11:2-15)  
Advent 3: December 10 & 11, 2022

Today is *Gaudete* Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, the Latin word for our English word “rejoice.” At first glance, we seem to have a strange Gospel reading for pondering joy or rejoicing. It does not deliver a warm, fuzzy Jesus. It presents a Jesus who doesn’t apologize for or explain away the uncertainties of the world toward Him. It delivers a Jesus who disrupts the world...who brings Life where Life is least expected. “Christmas spirit” will come and go, but the joy our Savior brings is a real reason for rejoicing.

1. **Today’s Gospel reading in Matthew brings a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ to fake “holiday joy” or “Christmas spirit” that comes and goes with the calendar.** It answers the questions: Where is true joy to be found? What sort of Savior is Jesus?
2. **Jesus is a Savior for \_\_\_\_\_, who is \_\_\_\_\_ (11:2–6).** It should not come as a surprise that John had doubts about Jesus. John was faithful to speaking truth to power and confronting Herod Antipas. But now he is in prison, with no end in sight. Was John’s notion of “joy” based on a false notion of prosperity? Jesus’ rescue is for the poor, the lost, and the least.
3. **Jesus is a Savior for the \_\_\_\_\_ who are \_\_\_\_\_ (11:7–14).** It appears some went out to see John in order to engage a popular celebrity or local success story. Perhaps even if they looked past John’s self-presentation, many might have thought the winnowing fork of the Savior was for someone else! Was their notion of “joy” associated with following a life roadmap designed by a popular guru? Jesus’ rescue is unapologetically linked with imprisoned prophets who preach repentance!
4. **Jesus is *our* Savior, even if He is a Savior we didn’t think we wanted. He comes to bring true and lasting joy in spite of—or because of—our real world problems. We may not always see His deliverance...but we do \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it (11:15)!** In the real world, where death is feared and inevitable, Jesus has taken the sting of death away. His forgiveness of our sins means we no longer have anything to fear. He makes all things new. He is coming again...and we will be different! That’s a reason to rejoice today and all year long.





She will bear a son,  
and you shall call  
*his name Jesus.*

for he will save his people  
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

## Advent Worship

### Weekend Services

November 27 ~ 1st Sunday in Advent

December 4 ~ 2nd Sunday in Advent  
featuring St. Francis Brass Band at 9:30 am

December 11 ~ 3rd Sunday in Advent

December 18 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent  
Christmas Music Festival, *What Sweeter Music*  
featuring Festival Chorus accompanied by  
full orchestra at 8:00 am and 9:30 am

Worship Times, unless noted:  
Sat. 6:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am, 9:30 am, Praise 11:00 am

### Mid-Week Services

November 30 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm  
Hanging of the Greens  
(children and family focused service)

December 7 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm  
Holden Evening Prayer Service

December 14 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm  
featuring Old North State Brass

December 21 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm  
Christmas Carol Celebration  
in Circle Entrance (family friendly)