



# The Second Sunday of Advent

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# The Second Sunday of Advent

## Holy Eucharist

Celebrant - The Rev. Elisa P. Harres  
The Rev. Thomas C. Pumphrey (8AM & 10:30AM)

*Our Mission is Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ*

### The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on "A Virgin Most Pure"

Andrew Gant

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Leader* See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

*People* The light of God's hope has awakened our spirits.

*Leader* A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

*People* Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may greet the dawn of your salvation.

*Leader* Teach us deeper faithfulness, O Lord,

*People* And prepare us to welcome your arrival.

*Celebrant* Merciful Lord, guide us by the words of your prophets to true repentance so that our vision may be focused on the great gift that is to come: Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn 65 Prepare the Way, O Zion

Acclamation (also on page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer)

*Priest:* Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, 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.**

(5:30: spoken: Lord, have Mercy, **Christ, have mercy**, Lord, have mercy)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Celebrant:* The Lord 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.**

## The Lessons

### The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** *(said responsively by half verse)*

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
**you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
**and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
**and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

**The New Testament Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Sequence Hymn 67      Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People**

**Children's Chapel**    *During the singing of the last stanza of the Sequence Hymn, children through second grade are invited to an adult-led worship specifically for children in the Creation Chapel. They will return in time to share the Peace and Holy Communion.*

Gospel            Mark 1:1-8

*Priest:*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Priest:*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon – The Rev. Elisa Harres

The Nicene Creed (*also on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*)

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 (*please kneel as you are able*)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We thank you, Lord, for the blessings of this life. *(please add your thanksgivings)*

*The priest adds a concluding Collect.*

## The Confession

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.

## The Absolution

## The Exchange of the Peace of Jesus Christ

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

## The Liturgy of the Table

**The Offertory** *The congregation offers to God gifts of bread and wine, as well as gifts of money, and music.*

Offertory Voluntary (8:00)

An Advent Pastorale

Charles Rinck

Choral Anthem (10:30)

Your Light Has Come

Dorothy Frisch





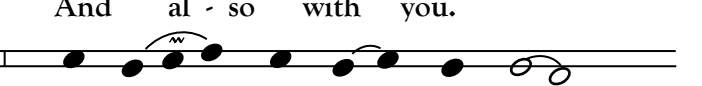
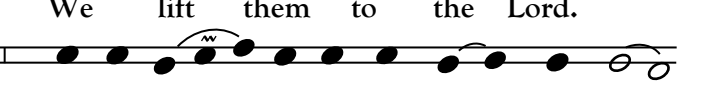
Presentation Hymn

Doxology

(Tune: *Old 100th*)

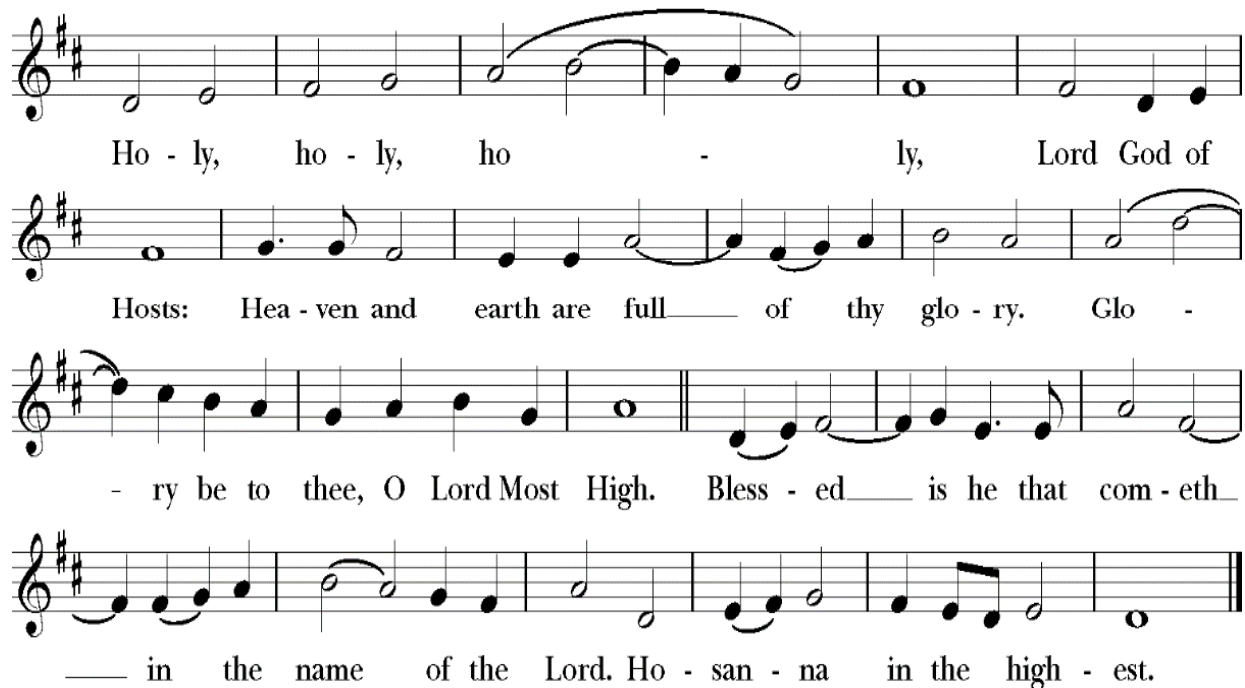
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below,  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B** (*page 367 in the Book of Common Prayer*)

<p><i>Priest:</i></p>  <p>The Lord be with you.</p>  <p>Lift up your hearts</p>  <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	<p><i>People:</i></p>  <p>And al - so with you.</p>  <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>  <p>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</p>
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It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The priest continues...

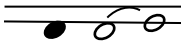
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**Celebrant and People**      We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

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.

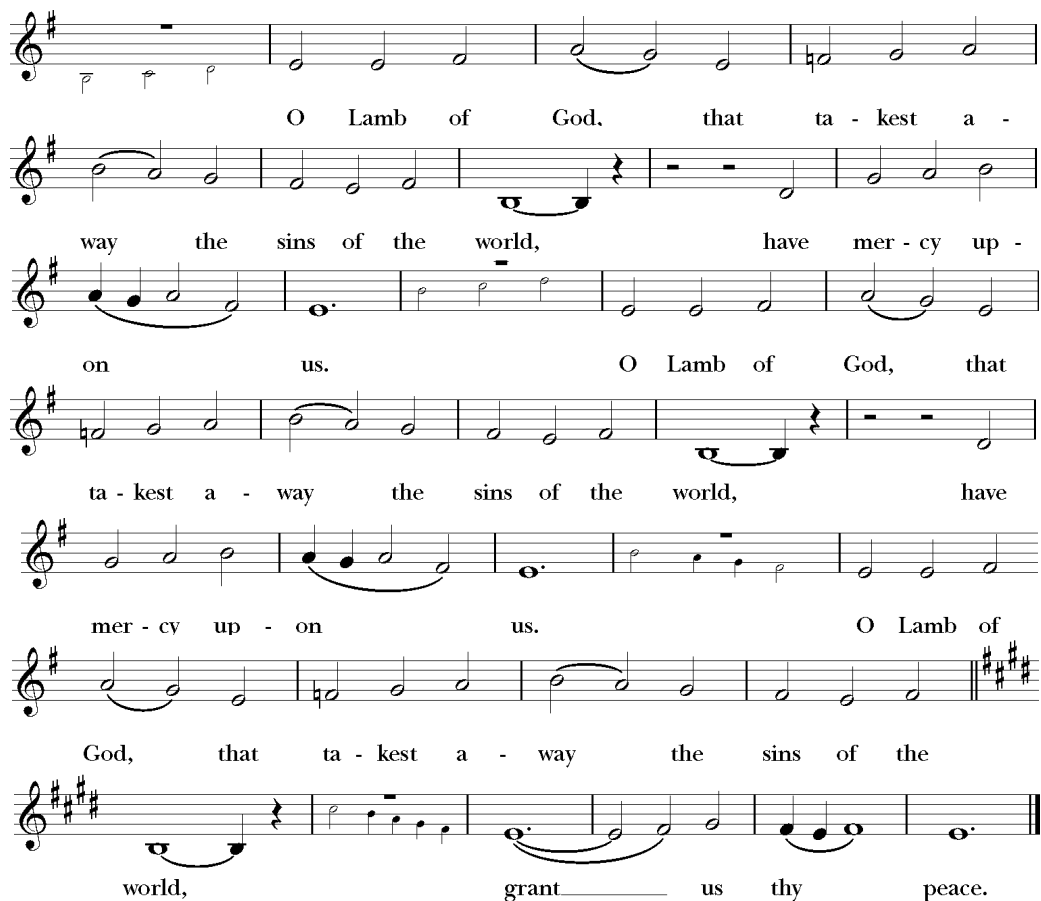
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with 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.

The people join in concluding:   
"A - MEN!"

### The Lord's Prayer

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.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that  
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.



## The Communion

*All are welcome at the table either to receive the blessing of the church if you are not baptized (please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest), or to share in communion with Christ and his church if you are a baptized Christian of any age or any denomination.*

## Communion Music

Hymn 343                      Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless  
Hymn 69                        What Is the Crying at Jordan?

## Eucharistic Visitor Blessing

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. Go with the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation to our sisters and brothers who cannot be with us in this place, bringing refreshment to those who are weary, and all for God's glory in the Communion of Saints. Amen.

## Postcommunion Prayer *(also in the Book of Common Prayer, page 366)*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## Blessing

Closing Hymn 76              On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

## Dismissal

Priest:     Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People:    Thanks be to God!

Closing Voluntary              O Come Now, Savior of the Nations                                      Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

**Thank you for worshipping with us today!**

## Events & Announcements for the Second Week of Advent

*Our Mission is Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

### Lessons & Carols

**Tonight, Sunday, December 10, at 4PM – Special Prelude Music at 3:30PM**

**Reception to follow in the Parish Hall**

*Bring your friends and family and join us for this beautiful Advent musical tradition! Through a program of nine lessons, choir anthems, and congregational carols, this service offers a rich opportunity to prepare our hearts for Christmas.*

**God has a vision for us as a Christian Community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, active in:**

### Worship of God

**Christmas Foliage Memorial Donations** - Flowers for our Christmas Services are made possible by your generous donations. Please use the form below to submit your donation in honor of or in memory of your loved ones. Dedications will be published in the Christmas worship bulletins.

Flower donations are \$25 and payable by credit card, cash or check. You may fill out our online form and pay by credit card, or fill out one of our manual forms located in each Narthex of the church. Please have your submissions in by December 18th to be included in the bulletin.

### Discipleship for All Ages

**Children in The Epiphany Worship Service** - Join the children's ministry on Epiphany Sunday, January 7th 2024, at the 5:30PM service for a dramatic presentation of the Gospel. All children are invited to participate. All kids are asked to bring a robe to wear over their Sunday clothes (most bathrobes will work). Crowns and headpieces will be provided!

**Youth Winter Retreat 2024 – Start Something: Your First Steps to Lasting Change** – January 13-15 2024 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Come enjoy winter fun and find a godly vision for your life. We will study the story of Moses and the Israelites and what it means to have a godly vision for your life. We will discuss the next steps we can each take in becoming the person God created us to be. We will worship together each day with morning prayer and compline and we will enjoy snow tubing, ice skating, hiking, and eating lots of great food! Cost: \$175 per student.

Questions? Contact Brandon Dasinger at [bdasinger@peterandpaul.org](mailto:bdasinger@peterandpaul.org).

For more information and to signup, go to [www.peterandpaul.org/start-something](http://www.peterandpaul.org/start-something).

### Serving Christ in the World

**Meal Support Ministry** - Freshly cooked and frozen meals are available this weekend after each service to anyone who would find a meal a genuine help. Meals are made available the first and third Sundays of each month. Visit the Parish Hall kitchen area following your service to pick one up!

**The MUST Giving Tree** – Our Christmas Tree is up!. Take a gift list from the Giving Tree located in the Bell Tower, shop, and place your unwrapped items under the tree by **Sunday, December 17**. These gifts will be taken to MUST Ministries where needy parents will shop for their children without cost and have the joy of wrapping the gifts for their family.

**Holy Comforter Christmas Party -Sunday, December 17th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm**

The Friendship Center at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter is a day program for those marginalized by mental health or poverty. Each year we join Holy Comforter in a Christmas celebration. On Sunday, December 17, following their 10:30 service, our own Back of the Bus band will provide music. Then we will share lunch at 12:45 while some of our volunteers will deck their parish hall in Christmas. After lunch, Santa will hand out bags of presents that are designed to meet their particular needs. We will conclude about 2PM. If you would like to volunteer as Mrs. Claus or help assemble giftbags in advance, please contact Tom Martin! [ttmartinhome@gmail.com](mailto:ttmartinhome@gmail.com) or 470-952-9987

See you there!

# Advent & Christmas

the Episcopal Church of  
**St. Peter  
& St. Paul**



## The MUST Giving Tree

*Located in the Bell Tower hall. Beginning Nov. 25 and ends Dec. 17*

## Advent Lessons & Carols

December 10 at 4:00PM - 5:30PM, Seasonal Prelude at 3:30PM  
*with reception to follow*

## Holy Comforter Christmas Party (at Church of the Holy Comforter)

December 17, 12:00PM to 2:00PM

## Family Christmas Caroling

December 17, Meeting at the Church at 4PM

## Christmas Eve Services at 3PM, 5PM, 9PM, & 11PM

Children's Nativity Presentation at 3PM

*All Children 2 years and older are invited to participate – Nursery provided for pre-walkers*

Handbell Choir at 9PM

Light Incense at 11PM

## Christmas Day Worship Service

Monday at 10:30AM

## Epiphany Worship Service

Join the children's ministry on Epiphany Saturday, January 6th 2024, at the 5:30PM service for a dramatic presentation of the Gospel. All children are invited to participate. All kids are asked to bring a robe to wear over their Sunday clothes (most bathrobes will work). Crowns and headpieces will be provided!

If you have any questions please contact Camie Schade at [cschade@peterandpaul.org](mailto:cschade@peterandpaul.org).



Clergy & Musician  
The Rev. Thomas C. Pumphrey, Rector  
The Rev. Elisa P. Harres, Associate Rector  
George Chesnut, Director of Music