

*December 7, 2025 – The Second Sunday of Advent*  
*10:00 am Livestream Liturgy*



*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church*

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The Rev. Steven A. Buechler, Senior Pastor  
Danielle Drobny, Pianist & Music Coordinator  
Martha Rogers, Administrative Secretary

## Prelude: *Prepare the Way* - Ben Logan

### Greetings & Announcements

#### The Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P) Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist called all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation.

C) **Amen.**

Hymn: *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* (verse 2)



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C) **Amen.**

P) Let us come before God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P) To you, O God,

C) **we lift up our souls.**

**You know us through and through;**

**we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins:**

**remember us with your steadfast love.**

**Show us your ways; teach us your paths;**

**and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness**

**in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P) In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C) **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

### *Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

- P) 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.**

### Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy.

A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen

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P) Let us pray ... Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C) Amen.

### +++ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +++

#### First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

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.

*R) The Word of the Lord.*

**C) Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19** (Read responsively by whole verse)

Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the king's son;

**that he may rule your people righteously**

**and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,

and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,**

**rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,

from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,**

**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;**

**you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever,

and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13**

For 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.

*R) The Word of the Lord.*

**C) Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation (sung twice before the Gospel reading)**

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass/Tenor) in G major (one sharp). The first system contains the lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and the second system contains "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a common time signature of 8.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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*P) The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.*

**C) Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

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."

*P) The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C) Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Children's Sermon Sermon**

# Hymn: "Blessed Be the God of Israel"



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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## **Nicene Creed**

**C) 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

- P) Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world, the church, and for all people.  
*A brief silence.*

*Each petition concludes:*

- 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.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

- P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C) **And also with you.**

## The Offering

*We encourage everyone to support our ministry together here at Prince of Peace! If possible, [please give electronically](#) or through online banking. If you are worshipping live with us, you may also place your offering in the plate or scan this QR code to give electronically. Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!*



## The Offertory

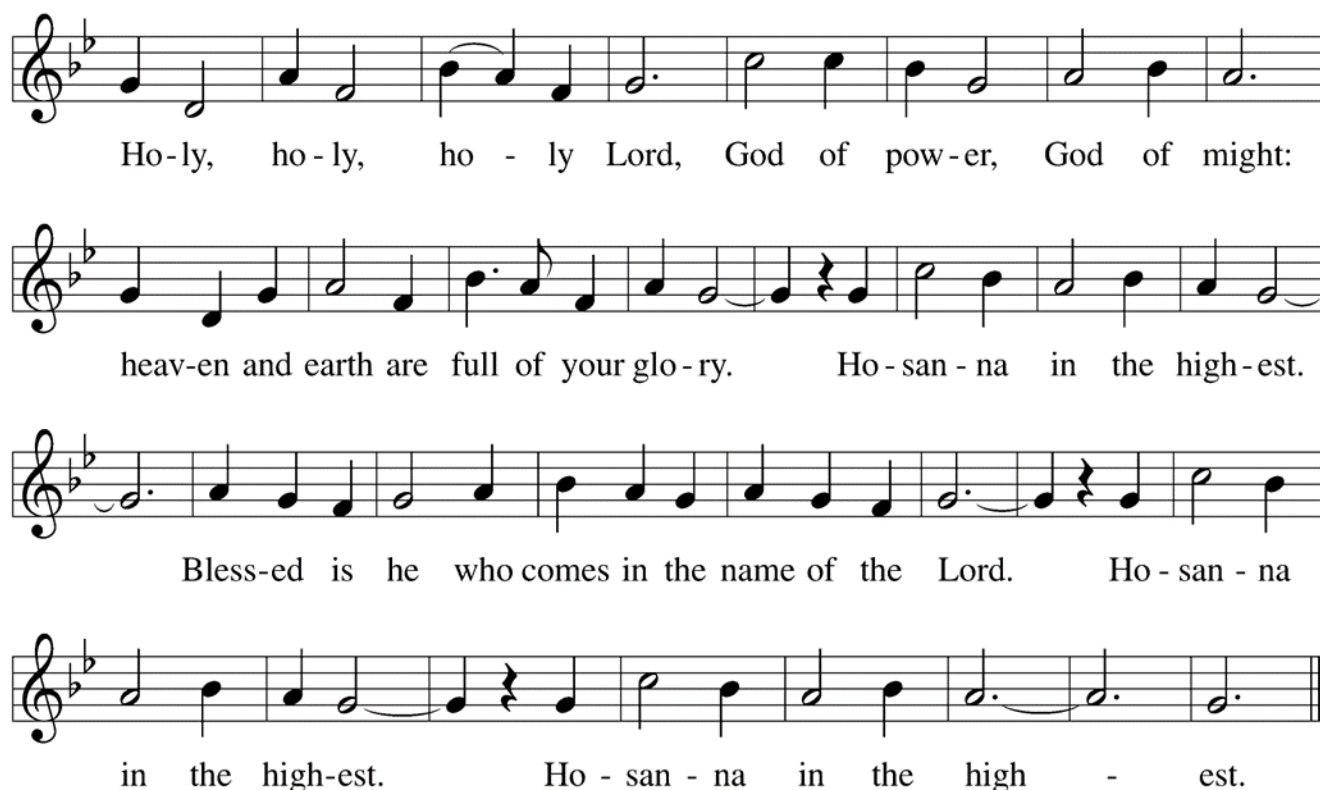
*I Wonder As I Wander - arr. Victor Labenske*

## Offertory Prayer

- P) Let us pray... Savior of the nations, come. Feed us with your love and presence, so that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.  
C) **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

- P) The Lord be with you.  
C) **And also with you.**  
P) Lift up your hearts.  
C) **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- P) It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:  
heav-en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: "Sanctus," tr. English Language Liturgical Consultation  
Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## **The Eucharistic Prayer for Advent**

P) Holy God, Mighty Lord, Gracious Father,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty,  
and for your steadfast love for us and for all creation.  
For even when our sin brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy,  
and to announce the coming of the Messiah.  
And so at this end of the ages  
you sent your Son Jesus into the world  
to bring us your love, to forgive our sins,  
and to give us the gift of eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.  
Send your Spirit upon us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**C) Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

P) Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

## Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the**

**world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of**

**God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have**

**mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the**

**sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## **Communion**

Communion will be distributed by individual glass (red wine; white grape juice) if you are worshipping in person. Gluten free wafers are also available.

If you are worshipping at home, please commune yourself or one another with the words:

*The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

## **Music During Communion**

*Goodness of God* - arr. Chrissy Ricker

- P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C) **Amen.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

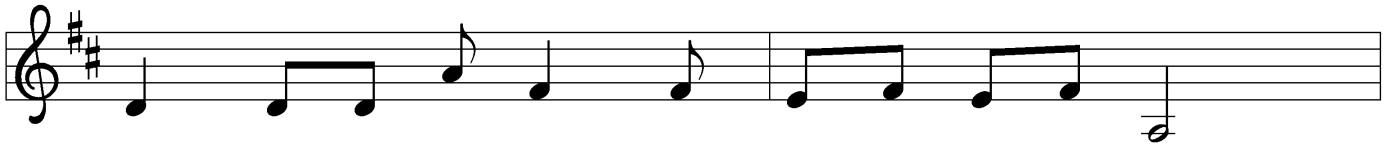
- P) Let us pray... God for whom we wait, you make your presence known to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our lives, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

## **The Benediction**

- P) Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C) **Amen.**



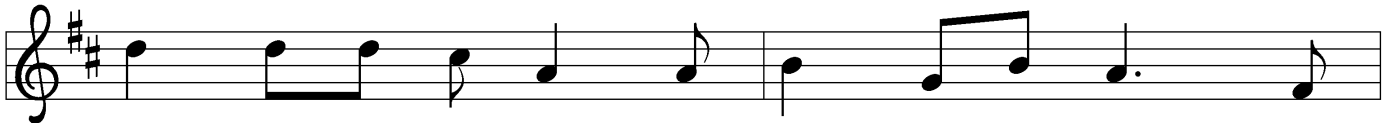
## Closing Hymn: "All Earth Is Hopeful"



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

## Dismissal

P) Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

**Altar flowers are given by Theresa & Doug Register in memory of Grace Ann Register-Bryant.**

**Please also join us on:**

**Saturday, December 13**

**Saturday Worship @ 5 pm (in-person only)**

**Christmas Pageant @ 6 pm**

**Sunday, December 14**

**Worship @ 10:00 am**

**(in person & [live stream on Facebook](#))**

**Sunday School @ 11:00 am**

**Christmas Pageant @ 3 pm**

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

**[Christmas Eve](#) Children's Service @ 4:00 pm**

**[Christmas Eve](#) Carols & Communion @ 7:00 pm**

**(in person & [live stream on Facebook](#))**

**Christmas Day, December 25**

**[Christmas Day](#) Worship @ 10:00 am**

**(in person & [live stream on Facebook](#))**

**It's Poinsettia Time! The deadline to order flowers is this Sunday, December 7!**

**Christmas drive for TVAR – Donations are also due this Sunday, December 7!**

**Theology on Tap** will be led by Pastor Steve at 6:15 pm on Wednesday, Dec 10 prior to the Advent Evening Prayer service. Much of what we see in our news feeds and social media is based on algorithms which feed us information based on what the algorithm determines are our political preferences. Mostly, these algorithms give us bias-confirmation and are often intended to provoke anger and outrage at people we disagree with. However, there are other “algorithms” in the New Testament for seeing and engaging with those we disagree with, and we'll look at three of those at this ToT. Feel free to bring food and beverages, and join us for Bible study and discussion!

**Come join us for a service of Holden Evening Prayer each Wednesday in [Advent](#) at 7:15 pm (December 10 & 17) in person or livestream on [our Facebook page](#)! A time of fellowship with wine, cheese and finger food will precede the service on **December 3 & 17, beginning at 6:15 pm. On December 10, Pastor Steve will lead an Advent Theology on Tap before the service beginning at 6:15 pm.****

**You are invited to a Holiday Potluck!** Join us for a Festive Savory or Sweet Holiday Potluck hosted at the home of Nancy and Chet Wolejsza (104 Foxtrail Terrace, North Potomac, MD) on **Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.** Bring your favorite savory or sweet dish to share, and don't forget your holiday cheer. We can't wait to celebrate the season together! Contact [Pamela Cook](#), [Cherie DeGeorge](#), or [Wendy Dinova-Wimmer](#) if you have questions.

**For this year's Christmas Pageant, you are invited to join us as guests In Bethlehem Inn** (the Fellowship Hall)! Enjoy a sampling of first century foods and meet the characters in the story, followed by Carols, Cocoa, Cookies and Tree Lighting on the patio! Please [sign up here for a seating](#) on either **Saturday, Dec. 13 at 6 pm** (after the Saturday service) or **Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 pm!** (If you would like to help donate towards the Bethlehem snack platters, [please sign up here!](#))

**GIVING TREE** - Prince of Peace is participating in the Giving Tree program with Brown Station Elementary School in Gaithersburg providing selected students and their siblings with holiday gifts. The school identifies a few families that need some help for the holidays and then sends us the wish list from the kids. Then we shop! [Sign-Up Genius](#) is available NOW! **The deadline for gifts is Sunday, December 14, 11:00 am.** Contact [Kathy Mellott](#) with questions.

**New Members!** Prince of Peace will officially receive new members on **Sunday, December 21 at the 10 am service!** If you'd like to be part of the group, please contact [Pastor Steve](#)!

**Join us weekly after services for the Coffee and Conversation hour at 11am, after Sunday services, in the sanctuary.** To view the schedule, or to sign up to lead a Bible study session this fall, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2025> We look forward to having you!

**COAT/JACKET DRIVE** - Prince of Peace members are invited to donate used jackets, coats, and other winter items to give to students at Brown Station Elementary School. The school would prefer new or gently used jackets, coats, gloves, mittens (waterproof, if possible). Children's Size 4T - Size 7 and larger children's sizes 12 and up are preferred. For questions about this Drive, contact [Kathy Mellott](#).

**Men's Book Club** will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 22. Dick Moore will host at his house. We will discuss the book *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

**Honduras Mission 2026** We are already planning for the next Honduras Mission Trip scheduled for June 18-28, 2026! The mission team is growing and we hope to add even more team members before the commitment deadline of **January 12, 2026**. Please contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle if you are interested or would like more information.

**Haven Universe "Saturday Night Alive!"** These events are hosted for individuals with special needs and their families and friends, many of whom are adults that attend with their caregivers. **"Saturday Night Alive" events will occur on the following dates from 3:00-5:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School: Jan. 17, Feb. 7, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16.** Positions for potential volunteers include front desk check-in, AV tech setup/takedown, craft table, merchandise sales, or just mingling with participants. (High school students can also earn SSL hours by volunteering.) Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions.

**Social Justice Ministry extends our sincere thanks to everyone who generously supported this year's Thanksgiving Project.** Through your donations, and volunteer service, six families in our community were blessed with a Thanksgiving Feast. The families we sponsored were very appreciative and asked that we pass on their thanks directly to the Congregation.

**Food for Thought:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

**Prince of Peace welcomes people** as they are and embraces all the dimensions of diversity in which God has made us: race, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, physical ability, and cultural and religious backgrounds, among others. We are all loved by God.

#### Next Sunday's Readings

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#); [Luke 1:46b-55](#); [James 5:7-10](#); [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

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