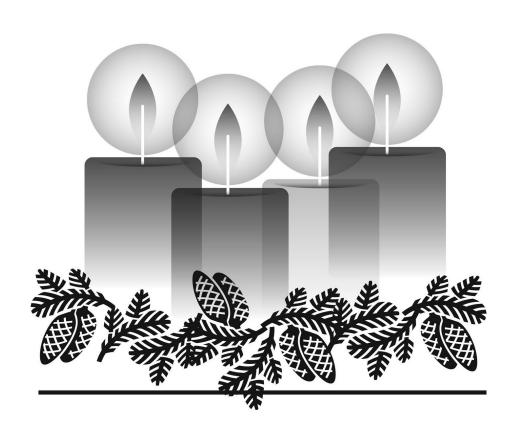
# Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 21, 2025 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

# Before the service, speak to the Lord; During the service, let the Lord speak to you; After the service, speak to one another.

#### Prelude

The People stand as they are able.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hope for God's Presence (The following litany is said in procession)

Leader During Advent we see God's love for us embodied in our Savior's birth.

People Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Leader Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

People Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Leader Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

People Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

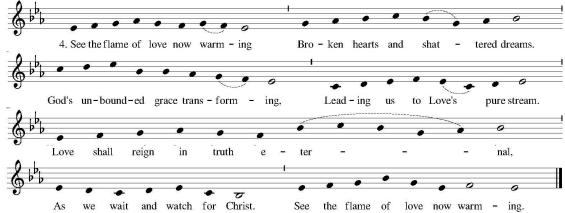
Leader Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

People Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

### Candle Lighting

This morning we light four candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today's candle—love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate God's gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves us.

# Congregational Hymn



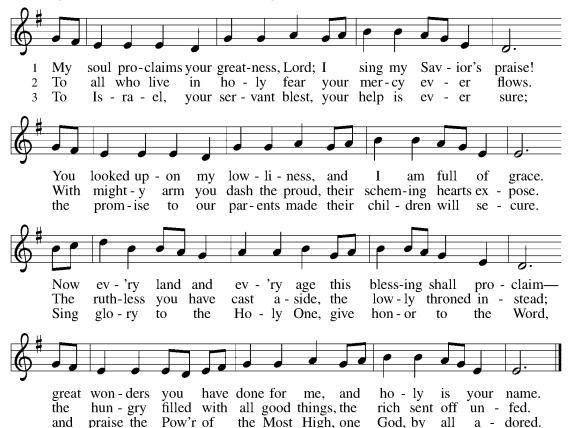
Words: Alex Turner. Used with permission.

# Closing Prayer

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we are reminded that "Love came down at Christmas—love amazing, love divine." You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it's up to us to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. Amen.

The complete text begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer.

Opening "My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord"



Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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The People standing, the Presider says:

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

# Collect for Purity

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.** 

Here is said

Priest Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Priest Lord, have mercy.

# The Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

The People may be seated while lessons are read.

#### The Lessons

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

#### The Response

#### Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18



light of your coun-te - nance, and we shall be saved.

From A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated.

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- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up your strength and come to help us. Refrain
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*
  how long will you be angered
  despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Refrain

- Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \* the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*
  give us life, that we may call upon your Name. Refrain

#### Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Priest The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "loseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means. "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son: and he named him Jesus.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon** (9 a.m.) The Rev. Matthew Roney **The Pageant** (11 a.m.)

**Congregational Hymns During Pageant:** 

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Latin, ca. 9th cent., ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. © 1940 Church Publishing, Inc. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #723843-A. All rights reserved.

# "Away in a manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Traditional carol. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick. Public domain.

#### "The first Nowell"

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

English Carol, 18th cent. Public domain.

# "Silent night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Words: Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young; Music: Franz X. Gruber, harm. Carl H. Reinecke. Public domain.

# "Joy to the world! the Lord is come"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

Words: James Watts; Music: George F. Handel, adapt. And arr. Lowell Mason. Public domain.

Silence is kept for reflection, after which the People are bid to stand as they are able.

# The Prayers of the People

Lector God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and be loved. Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as he loves us.

God of love

Hear our prayer

Silence

We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble. Give them courage and hope in their distress and bless those who minister to them.

God of love

Remembering especially Janice, Hazel, Sid, Ken, Marley, Julian, Tim, Joan, John, Reed, Audrey, Lotte, Patti, Debbie, Betty, Lee, Ginny, Matthew, Jim, Mike, Andrew, Carol, Michelle, Harry, Sue, Becky & Dante.

Hear our prayer

Silence

We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of this land. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Inspire with your wisdom those in authority among us, the leaders of the nations and all whose decisions affect the lives of others.

God of love

Hear our prayer

Silence

We pray for your Church throughout the world. We thank you for all who serve Christ and God's kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your grace. God of love

Hear our prayer

Silence

We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom.

God of love

Hear our prayer

Silence

Merciful God you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your people.

Grant that which we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Priest Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.** 

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Clergy and People

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 Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life **Amen**.

#### The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The People may then greet one another with a sign of peace.

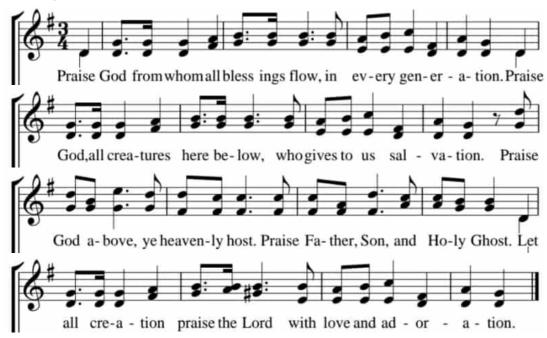
After the Peace, the People may be seated for announcements and the offering.

# Offertory

Special Music

The People stand as the offering is brought forward.

# Doxology



WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. Dale A. Schoening, 2001 MUSIC: Traditional German carol.

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Words copyright  $\odot$  2001 Dale A. Schoening, Published by The General Board of Disciples of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Web site http://www.uneworship.org

# The Great Thanksgiving

The complete text begins on p. 367, BCP

Eucharistic Prayer B

Priest The Lord be with you. People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father 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.

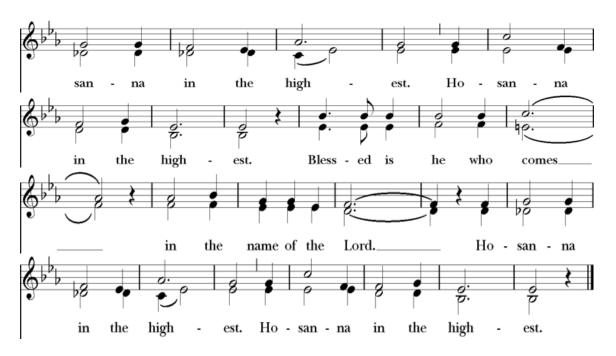
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People (spoken at 9 a.m.)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Presider and People (sung at 11 a.m.)





The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father.

#### Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

#### The Celebrant continues

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. **Amen.** 

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

#### People and Presider

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.

#### The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then, the Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All present are invited forward. If you are not a baptized Christian or choose not to receive, please cross your arms in front of your chest and instead receive a blessing.

If you would like to learn more about receiving the sacrament of baptism, Fr. Matt would be overjoyed to speak with you after the service.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen. The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

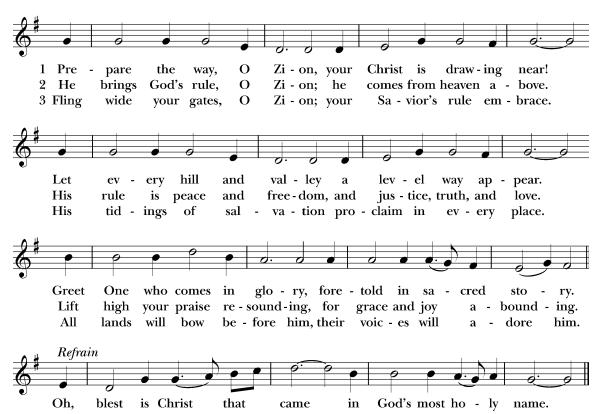
Optional prayer for those who cannot receive due to absence, such as those worshipping at home

Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

The people may be seated.

# **Hymns During Communion**

65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"



Words: Frans M. Franzen, tr. Composite, adapt. Charles P. Price. Public domain.

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



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



God would turn back our in ho - li - ness and to drive a - way the

en - e - mies and all who wish us harm. righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days. 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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# 68 "Rejoice! Rejoice, believers"



Words: Laurentius Laurenti, tr. Sarah B. Findlater; Music: Llangloffan. Public domain.

The People stand as they are able.

#### After Communion, all say

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.

#### The Priest bestows the blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

# Closing "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 - lev a lev - el road ap - pear! Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing! Your king, yet ev - 'ry trib - ute na - tion its bring. may His rule is peace and free - dom and ius - 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:



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

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The Deacon (or if no Deacon, the Priest) dismisses the People.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

#### The Flowers On The Altar

Given to the Glory of God and In Memory of Sally and Dennis Lane Aiden Page by The Lemke and Page Families

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

LARCC: Lay Eucharistic Ministers at Trinity Episcopal Church

For Healing & Convalescing: Janice LeMonds, Hazel Farnum, Sid Urbanowicz, Ken Hubbard, Marley Hamp, Julian Liske, Tim Fitzpatrick, Joan Campbell, John Precord, Reed Hamp, Audrey Himes, Lotte Rosenberg, Patti Rockwell, Debbie Sanborn, Betty Bartley, Lee Harris, Ginny French, Matthew Van Zetten, Jim Tanner, Mike Tanner, Andrew, Carol Putkamer, Michelle, Harry, Sue, Becky & Dante.

**Military:** Ian Hamp, Ashley Alexander, Tyler Ferrier, Joshua Gapske, Isaac Graham, John Hartman

Birthdays: Rev. Tom Downs (26), Rev. Bruce Michaud (27)

**Cycles of Prayer:** Diocesan: St. Paul's, Bad Axe and St. Andrew's, Gaylord; Anglican: the Anglican Church of Burundi

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **SANCTUARY DECORATING - DECEMBER 23**

Join us on Tuesday, December 23rd at 1:00 pm to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve Service! It's a wonderful time to gather, making our sanctuary look extra beautiful for the celebration of our Lord Christ's birth! All are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Stockdale at 303-886-2801 or email at 2heartsbluff@gmail.com.

#### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, December 28. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 4, 2026. We will begin learning about Ruth and Naomi from the Old Testament.

#### CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Every year during the holiday season, the Sunday Supper gives its guests gift bags of toiletries and other small surprises along with needed items like socks, hats, gloves, scarves, long underwear, etc. This year, the event will occur on Sunday, December 28.

If anyone would like to help make this special for the men, women, and children who attend, the suggested items above can be purchased. Money gifts are also welcome if you want us to do your shopping for you. Donations can be brought to the office or given to Ellen Eagan.

# **CHILDREN'S ADVENT TEA THANK YOU**

All Saints Hall was aglow Saturday, December 6 with warmth, laughter, delicious fragrances, twinkling lights and little children with stars in their eyes at the Annual Children's Advent Tea. So many of you helped create this happy event and we thank you most sincerely. All of you are special and deeply appreciated. A very special note of gratitude to Father Matt and Nora who, in their first appearance at The Tea, added knowledge, grace and fun!

# **THANKSGIVING BASKETS THANK YOU**

A HUGE Thank you to everyone who helped make the Thanksgiving Baskets a wonderful success. We were able to feed 55 families (256 people) so that they may enjoy an abundant meal this holiday season. It was possible because you are all such giving people, intentional about caring for those who are less fortunate. We lift you all up in prayer and say thank you!! \-- Ellen and Rebecca

# "A Simple Christmas Story" CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

Narrator - Cailyn Peters
Mary - Madison Wilson
Joseph - Benson Tanner
Baby Jesus - Phoebe Roney Stone
Shepherds - Erin Gleason, Shay Gorning
Wiseman - Max Wilson
Angels - Josie LeMonds, Breckyn Tanner, Nora Stone



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR		
Today	9 & 11 AM 4 PM	Holy Eucharist Children's Christmas Pageant (11 a.m.) Sunday Supper
Tuesday	1:30 PM 4:45 PM 7 PM	Alpena Groove - Lower Level
Wednesday	4:30 PM 7 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist AA
Thursday	10 AM	CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day Holy Eucharist (spoken)
Friday	5:30 PM	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED AA

# Trinity Episcopal Church 124 E. Washington Avenue Alpena, MI 49707

The Rev. Matthew Roney, Rector Cell: (989) 312-3473 ♣ Email: rector@trinityalpena.net The Rev. Dr. Daniel Maxwell, Deacon

> Kat Tomaszewski, Music Director Peggy Tomaszewski, Office Manager

Phone: (989) 356-0576 Email: adminasst@trinityalpena.net Website: www.trinityalpena.net

Office Hours: Closed Mondays, Tuesday - Thursday - 1pm to 5pm, Friday - 1pm to 3pm

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church! As part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, ours is a tradition both catholic and reformed—a *via media*, or "middle way," within the historic Christian faith.

Part of the Alpena community since 1864, our Victorian Gothic building dates from 1883. As a National Jubilee Center, we work to serve those in need, and as a venue for performing arts, we live out our identity as a "village church" in the English tradition.

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome and wanted in this place. We are delighted that you are here, and hope that you will join us in prayer and fellowship.

# The Vestry

Ellen Eagan, Senior Warden
Don Stockdale, Junior Warden
Susan Fitzpatrick, Treasurer
Michelle Cornish, Clerk
Sue Jackowiak Ted Rockwell
Cathy Meske Sonya Titus
Bill Powell Betty Westrope

