

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
November 30, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

**Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our
entryways or you can scan this code with your phone
camera.**



+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

With humility we confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of promise and hope, **So often we fall short, failing to be all that you have created us to be. We pester you with questions, "Why?" and "Where are you?" We lack faith in your promises of deliverance and hope. Forgive us for all that we have done to harm you, others, and ourselves. Walk with us in the time of Advent, so that through our journey we may be made clean. Our holy God knows we are weak, frail creatures. Yet God loves us and refuses to give up on us. Because of God's persistence we are made new again and again. Receive today the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Walk with God on your human journey, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and friend, Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The prophet Isaiah proclaims the coming of the Day of the Lord. A day of peace, a day when God will teach us the path to walk in God's ways.

(light candle 1) We light this first candle as a sign of our hope for true peace on Earth. Let this light be a beacon to all who wait, a sure sign that Jesus is coming to us.

Advent Candle Lighting

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240 (vs. 1)

GREETING

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

GATHERING HYMN

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 2.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 2: 1-5

PSALM 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

² Now our feet are standing **within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

A reading from the letter to Romans, chapter 23.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Romans 13: 11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 (vs. 1)

Gospel

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 24. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Matthew 24: 36-44

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 (vs. 2)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (aimed toward Grades K thru 6th, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

SERMON

L: NICENE CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

(Please be seated)

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

The world can sometimes seem unpredictable and unsafe, O God. When we wonder where to place our foundation, turn us again to your steadfast love and never failing mercy. Faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

Forgive us for living as if there were no generations following us, and for squandering the resources of this beautiful earth. Restore us to oneness with the creation and with our fellow journeyers on this planet. Faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...(time is allowed for additions). Faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

As we are bombarded with sales, commercials and pleas to spend our money in order to please those whom we love, keep us centered and mindful of your purpose for us, that we might see the journey to you as all that is required of us. Faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for responses)*. Faithful God, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Remain Standing

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.



OFFERTORY

He Came Down

ELW 253 (vs. 1)

L: OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, Holy, Holy

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

ELW p. 129

p. 130

p. 132

p. 134 (left column)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.*

(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)

LAMB OF GOD

p. 135

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

REMINDERS

(If you are giving a reminder, come to the lectern as the altar is cleared).

SENDING HYMN

Come Now, O God

ACS 902

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, November 30, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Preacher: Pastor Jim Krauser

Musician: Aimee Allen

Assisting Minister: Valerie Holcomb

Lector: Heather Johnson

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donna Ropp, Rosemarie Tessman, Cookie Capsalors

Altar Guild: Susan and Ashley Provenzano

Communion Assistants: Cheryl Davis and Heather Johnson

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, November 30, 2025 – First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

4:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Service with Tree Lighting

Monday, December 1, 2025

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

9:30 a.m. Men's Group at Parkside Café

6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner Church (First Session) at Faith Lutheran

Thursday, December 4, 2025

6:00 p.m. Parish Life Meeting via Teams

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Saturday, December 6, 2025

10:00 a.m. Christmas Fair at First Congregational Church (10-2:00 p.m.)

Sunday, December 7, 2025- Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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