

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

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
December 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

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

CONFSSION 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. Amen**

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 Messiah, the one who will bring justice to the world.

(light candle 1) We light this first candle as a sign of our hope for peace on Earth.

(light candle 2) We light this second candle as a sign of our faith in your justice.

Advent Candle Lighting

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240 (vs. 2)

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

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

+WORD+

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

First Reading

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 11.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² 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.
³ 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, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

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

Isaiah 11: 1-10

PSALM 72

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

Amen.

Second Reading

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

A reading from the letter to Romans, chapter 15.

⁴ 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. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ 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 ancestors ⁹ and 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";

¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³ 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.

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

Romans 15: 4-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 (vs. 3)

Gospel

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 3. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

³ 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.' " ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² 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."

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

Matthew 3: 1-12

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 (vs. 4)

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631 (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

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.

You bid us turn away from all that holds us back from living as your servants. Give us truly contrite hearts and turn our faces to your ever-present mercy once more. God of repentance, **hear our prayer.**

The wilderness cries out still for justice, and the farthest corners of the earth plead for relief from the harmful effects of pollution, waste, and exploitation. Match our apologetic words with corresponding actions, that we might fight for the well-being of future generations who will occupy this planet after we are gone. God of repentance, **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)*. God of repentance, **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)*. God of repentance, **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. 2)****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****Eat This Bread****ELW 472 (repeated)****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****Prepare the Royal Highway****ELW 264**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, December 7, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Musician: Aimee Allen

Assisting Minister: Bill Cummiskey

Lector: Melissa Gamache

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Keith Hintz, Amanda Hintz, Mike Beaudoin

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

Communion Assistants: Melissa Davis and Cheryl Davis

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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

Monday, December 8, 2025

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner Church (Second Session) at St. Paul, Terryville

6:00 p.m. Council Budget Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

6:00 p.m. Christmas Choir

Thursday, December 11, 2025

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Saturday, December 13, 2025

11:00 a.m. Women's Group assembly of products for St. Vincent DePaul

Sunday, December 14, 2025 -Third Sunday of Advent

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

10:30 a.m. Gingerbread Men Decorating with Congregational Conversation & Brunch

FAITH LUTHURAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT 06010

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

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507