

# The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day December 25, 2025 at 9:00 am

Prelude "In Dulci Jubilo" Marcel Dupré

#### Welcome & Announcements

All stand as able for hymns

Opening Hymn

"Once in royal David's city" (Verses 1, 2,4 & 6) Hymnal 102

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 4 For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew, he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew, Thus He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in our gladness.
- 6 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround: Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm, Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

#### The Christmas Acclamation

Celebrant: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people:

for unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior which is Christ

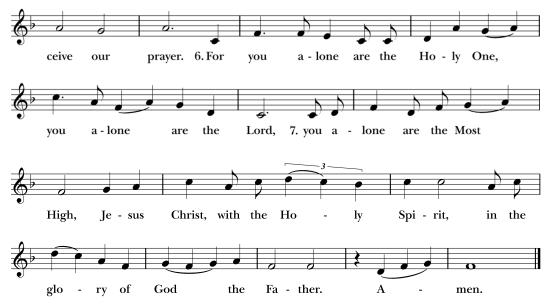
the Lord!

People: Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.

Celebrant: 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.** 



(Gloria continues on next page)



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## The Collect for the Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten

Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same

Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

(Please be seated for the readings)

#### The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,

clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed

to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the LORD";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out,

A City Not Forsaken."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 97

The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; \*

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him, \* righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him \* and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; \* the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, \* at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, \* and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! \* Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \* because of your judgments, O LORD.

For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; \* you are exalted far above all gods.

The LORD loves those who hate evil; \*

he preserves the lives of his saints

and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, \* and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, \* and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Epistle Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Response "Of the Father's love begotten" (Verses 1 & 2)

Hymnal 82

(Please stand as able for the Gospel)

The Gospel Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Response

"Of the Father's love begotten" (Verses 3 & 4)

Hymnal 82

The Sermon

The Rev. John Morrison

The Nicene Creed (Please Stand As Able)

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

Celebrant: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, our joy, at long last, is unbounded by the

arrival of our Messiah, come to redeem our sins and mark us as your own forever. Hallelujah! Christ our Savior is born! Glory to God in the

Highest.

All: And Peace to God's People on Earth

Intercessor: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, for the Universal Church and all who serve

the church: that God will inspire them in leading us to deeper faith and greater love during this Christmas season. Glory to God in the Highest.

All: And Peace to God's People on Earth

Intercessor: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, infuse our souls with your pure light that

we may stand before the earthly powers of our world and our nation and our community, to radiate your peace, love, and mercy for all. Glory to

God in the Highest.

All: And Peace to God's People on Earth

Intercessor: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, for healing of all fear: that the angel's

message, "Do not be afraid," may free all the human family and each of us from the bonds of fear and propel us to live boldly. Glory to God in the

Highest.

All: And Peace to God's People on Earth

Intercessor: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, for all who will be opening gifts: that we

may recognize how loved and blest we are and share our gifts with all who

enter our lives. And for all who have no gifts this day, particularly

children: that God will bless them with an experience of being truly loved

and appreciated. Glory to God in the Highest.

All: And Peace to God's People on Earth

Intercessor: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, in the midst of our joy we ask you to bring

healing and comfort to all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, and comfort for those who give them support. Glory to God in the Highest.

All: And Peace to God's People on Earth

Intercessor: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, especially now, encircle all grieving hearts

with the comfort that brightens the darkness, while the vaults of heaven explode in jubilance and glory as our loved ones enter the gates of eternity.

Glory to God in the Highest.

All: And Peace to God's People on Earth

Intercessor: Holy Infant, Lord at thy birth, we pause in this moment to offer you our

other heartfelt intentions and petitions, aloud or silently...

(Please add your own intercessions or thanksgivings out loud or in the silence of your heart.)

The Celebrant adds: O Lord of Hosts, God's word made flesh, as our wonderful counselor, so activate our wills, so engage our very beings, that we will live intentionally into your saving grace each and every day of our lives. On bended knees, and with worshipful hearts, we ask this of you as our Prince of Peace, and of the Holy Spirit, our sanctifier, who together with the Almighty High King of Heaven and Earth, reign in glory as One God, now until the end of forever. Hallelujah! Christ our Savior is born! Amen.

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

# Doxology

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

# The Holy Communion

# The Great Thanksgiving

(Remain standing as able)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

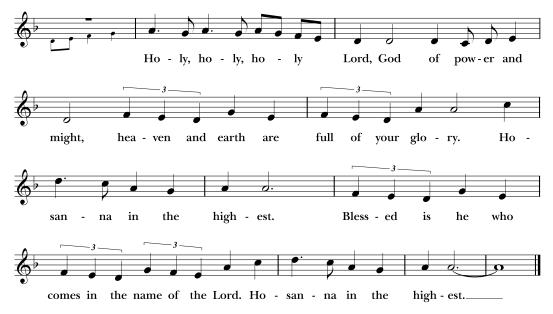
Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give

thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and 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:

#### Sanctus



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

You may stand or kneel.

#### Celebrant:

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,

All: We remember his death,

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

Celebrant:

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 Saints Mary, Joseph, Stephen, John, the Holy Innocents, Paul and 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.** 

## The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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

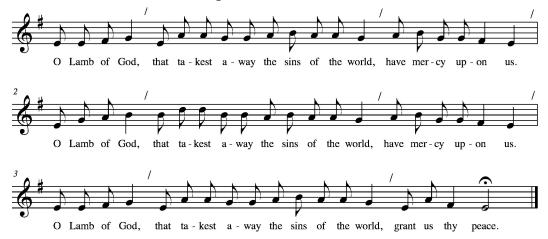
ever and ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

# Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: Agnus Dei



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

- Please follow the ushers directions for receiving the Eucharist at the altar rail.
- Let an usher know if you prefer to remain seated at your pew for distribution of the Bread and Wine.

#### Communion Hymn

"O little town of Bethlehem"

Hymnal 78

## Postcommunion Prayer

All:

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God: that we, who rejoice to celebrate the birth of our redeemer, may follow him in the way of righteousness and by your grace may be made worthy to dwell with him in heaven, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Christmas Blessing**

Celebrant:

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** 

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.** 

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth

to heaven, give you his peace and favor. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy

Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"Hark! the herald angels sing"

Hymnal 87

#### Dismissal

Celebrant:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Hermann Schroeder

**About the Cover:** The well-respected Northern Italian artist Lorenzo Lotto painted the Birth of Jesus in 1523. The small, interpretative details of this High Renaissance Nativity scene set it apart from others and open a way to look at the birth of Jesus with the eyes of faith.

In the distant foreground of the painting, there stands a single shepherd. The angels have not yet made the announcement of the birth of Jesus. We are seeing Mary and Joseph in the intimate moments they share alone after the birth of God's only begotten Son.

Both Mary and Joseph gaze upon the newborn Jesus with awe and wonder, their hearts lifted up to God in prayer. Jesus is placed in a manger, the feedbox of the animals.

Turtle-doves nest in the eaves of the stable. One day when Jesus is presented in the Temple, they will be the offering, as befits the poor. The one totally unexpected detail of this painting is the crucifix in the left corner of the picture. Its presence is chronologically inaccurate, but theologically appropriate. Jesus is born as the Savior who will accomplish our redemption as he who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness…[humbling] himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross."

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

12 Days of Christmas Festivities - As we continue to rejoice in the season, be sure to join us at our many 12 Days of Christmas celebrations as detailed on the enclosed insert.

Year End Donations - All money to be credited to your 2025 account MUST be in the Parish Office by December 31st. Any money received after December 31st will be credited to your 2026 account.

**Drive Thru Food Collection** - Since April 22, 2020, we have held 149 food drives, collecting much needed food for our neighbors and local food pantries. Our next Drive-Thru Food Collection is Wednesday, January 7th from 11 am to noon. If you are unable to drop off during these hours, alternate arrangements can be made <a href="mailto:prszen@gmail.com">prszen@gmail.com</a>.

**Prayer Needs?** - You can let us know by submitting your need on our website or emailing <a href="mailto:prayerchain@saintpaulsbrookfield.com">prayerchain@saintpaulsbrookfield.com</a> and our team of intercessors will pray for your request or you can ask for a prayer servant to call you and we can pray together!

The Priest-in-Charge Weekly - Fr. Nate has a weekly e-mail. "The Priest-in-Charge Weekly," to communicate things directly from his desk to yours. To receive his e-mail, write Fr. Nate at <a href="mailto:priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com">priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com</a> and let him know.

**Sword Points** - To receive our weekly electronic newsletter, Sword Points, and other communications from us online, send your name and e-mail address to <a href="mailto:StPaulsSwordPoints@gmail.com">StPaulsSwordPoints@gmail.com</a>.

Our Facilities - Our restrooms are located downstairs at the rear of our parish hall. Take the stairway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. The restrooms are located in the far left corner of the parish hall, across from the kitchen. Live streaming and audio of the service on a wide screen TV is set up in the parish hall. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

# The Christmas Flowers have been given in memory of:

Irene & Charles Allen Keith James Allen Lyle Cameron Bancroft Francesca & Dominic Barbieri Rose Barrett Virginia & John Beck Caroline & Frederick Bellesheim Margaret & David Birch Alberta & Warren Buck Lawson Brian Burke, Jr. Lawson B. Burke, III Elvi & Perry Burr Donna Cennamo Elizabeth & Thaddeus Coleman Elizabeth & John Covill Mary & Carmine DeCarlo Gladys & Ralph W. Emerson C. Floyd Evans Joseph Forcier-Allen Elizabeth & Rev. Donald Gard- Thomas J. McManus Jr. ner Kyle Gardner Bernice & Robert R. Goodfellow Marian & Tyler Gray Eva & Frank Gurski Frank Gurski Sr. Harry Gurski Jr. Marjorie & Stanley Gurski Mary & Harry Gurski Sr. Ruth Gurski Frances & George J. Hamelman Sr. George J. Hamelman Jr. Iames Hamelman Paul Hamelman Robert L. Hamelman

Steve Hemming Barbara Jeanne & Nathaniel Hill Irene & John Hornak Ianice K. Howard Walter C. Jones, III Evelyn & Fred Kaeser Barbara & Richard Kast Charlie Kirk Iulia B. & Paul G. Kovacs Roger Kovacs Roger G. Kovacs, Sr. Helen Gurski Lacagnina Robert John Lucas Sallie Luciani Peter K. Maier Lulu & Thomas Malloy Carly McManus Hazel & Thomas I. McManus Isabella McManus Frances & Joseph McRoberts Hazel & Clifford Medley Douglas Melody Josephine & Arthur Melody Brenda L. Miller Christina & Ronald Miller Ruth & John E. Morrison, Jr. Susan Morrison Elaine & Marty Murphy Emily & Victor Neuwirth Verona & Joseph Palowski Bobby S. Payne Linda Pendergast

Jerome Rekart

Gordon Rydell

Lillian & Lionel Ruffle

Ethel & Vernon Rydell

Jane Ryder Jane & Harold Schultz Ed Share Lucille Share Marie & Dean Sherk Todd Smith Muriel & Raymond Sparling Norma Jeanne Sporck Iean & John Stauffer Charles Switzer Martha Switzer Rob Switzer Stuart Terrill Christopher Thomas Dorothy Thomas Evelyne M. & Douglas W. Thomas Wyndham Thomas Barbara & James E. Trask, III Lois & Alvin J. Tuck, Jr. Wayne Underhill Mimmie & Harry Wanzer Sr. Janet & Harry Wanzer Jr. Phylis Werner Barbara Willis Beatrice & James Winkley Catherine & Kenneth Zdzieba Helen Zvtowski



Thanks-In giving for the ministries of: The Rev. Canon Eddie Alleyne The Rev. Claire Mis Rebecca Moshay

## Calendar for The Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

(Check website for up to date Zoom links - www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

Thu., Dec 25	9:00 am -	Christmas Day Service (YouTube Live)
Fri., Dec 26		St. Paul's Walking Group, Fairfield Hills, Newtown
ŕ		12 DAYS: "Pizza, Games & Prizes Night," Crocker Hall
Sat., Dec 27		John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
,		Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall
		PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall
		12 DAYS: "Hot Dogs & Holiday Lights"
Sun., Dec 28		Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
,		Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
		12 DAYS: "Holy Land Revisited," Guild Room (Zoom)
Mon., Dec 29	-	12 DAYS: "Downton Abbey Tea Party," Guild Room
	7:00 pm -	Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall
Tue., Dec 30	3:30 pm -	12 DAYS: "David" Movie Danbury AMC Theaters
Wed., Dec 31	10:00 am -	Healing & Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	11:30 am -	12 DAYS: "Hot Soup / Lunch," Crocker Hall
Thu., Jan 1	12:00 pm -	12 DAYS: "Healthy Hike," Williams Park
Fri., Jan 2	10:00 am -	St. Paul's Walking Group, 'Richter Park, Danbury
· ·	5:00 pm -	12 DAYS: "Holy Rollers Duckpin Bowling," Danbury
Sat., Jan 3	7:30 am -	John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
J	8:00 am -	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall
	10:00 am -	PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall
	6:00 pm -	12 DAYS: "Cooking w/Tim," Kitchen / Guild Room
Sun., Jan 4	8:00 am -	Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
-	9:30 am -	Adult Class, Guild Room
	10:30 am -	Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
Mon., Jan 5	7:00 pm -	12 DAYS: "House Blessing," White's Home, Brookfield

# Next Sunday - The First Sunday after Christmas Day

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Preacher: Rev. Randy Greve

Readings for December 28th

<u>Jeremiah 31:7-14</u> - <u>Psalm 84</u> - <u>Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a</u> - <u>John 1:1-18</u>