Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500 <u>durhamlutheran.org</u>

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor 267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org





December 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent

Sometimes we settle for peace as an absence of violence or tension. John the Baptist and other prophets call us to a more robust peace: one that brings safety, refuge, and rest to the vulnerable. Peace enacts justice, and it requires the hard work of constructing new roads through the wilderness.

> You can find the live stream at the following location: <u>www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran</u>

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Prelude:

GATHERING

P: Greeting to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes: the Shaper of Life, the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

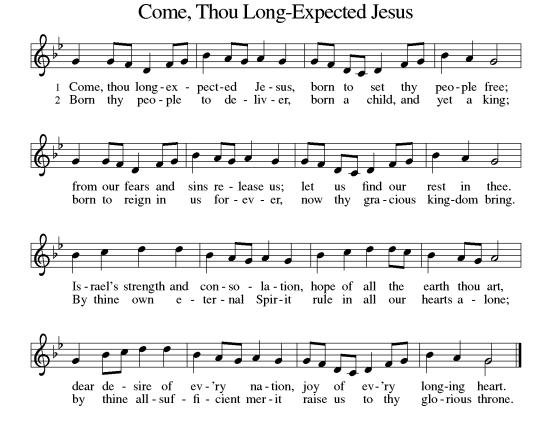
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives. And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin. Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

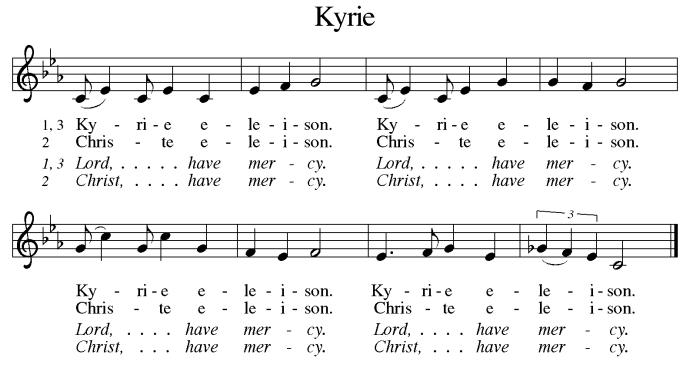
(Silence is kept for reflection)

- P: Let us pray,
- C: God, we want a faith that feels like more than words, but we lack your power to embody goodness. We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food. We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal. We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger. We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers, but we fail to match our intentions to our actions. Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence. Amen.
- P: My friends, God knows you are imperfect. But God did not invite you here today for what you have done or how you have behaved. God loves you. God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings. God forgives you all your sins.
- C: We accept God's forgiveness and take our place in God's purpose. Amen. Gathering Hymn: ELW 254



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you Kyrie-WOV 601



Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927 Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer of the Day

- L: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading- Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

L: A reading from the 3rd chapter of Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.



- P: Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week. Together, we pray:
- P: God, you shield us like tender flames;
- C: your care enables us to burn brighter.
- P: God, we pool our faith like candlelight;
- C: through you we reveal hidden goodness.
- P: God, your justice upends this broken world.
- C: Use your mercy to transform everything that harms.
- P: God, we reach for unreasonable hope;
- C: and you prepare an incomparable future.
- P: God, we breathe in your peaceful refuge,
- C: for you have made a place where we can safely rest.
- P: Now that the warmth of God's presence fills this place, we pray that the Spirit will illuminate our lives through the words we hear, the songs we sing, and the pathways of prayer engraved on our hearts. We Pray:

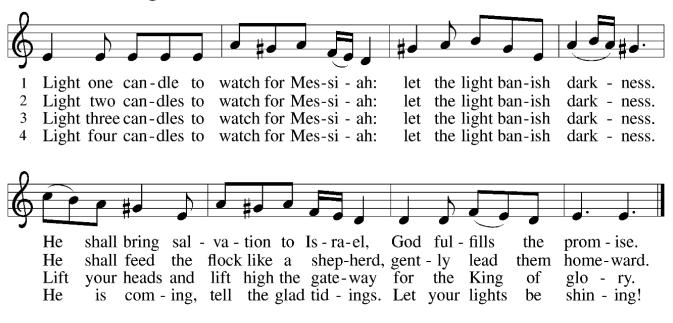
Lighting the First Candle of the Advent Wreath Lighting of 1st Candle

Blessing Prayer

The Roberts Family: God, we feel threatened by painful truths, but you build the path to peace through the wilderness. Speak boldly to us today so we can construct true peace upon the foundation of your care.

Place figures in Manger

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Second Reading - Philippians 1:3-11

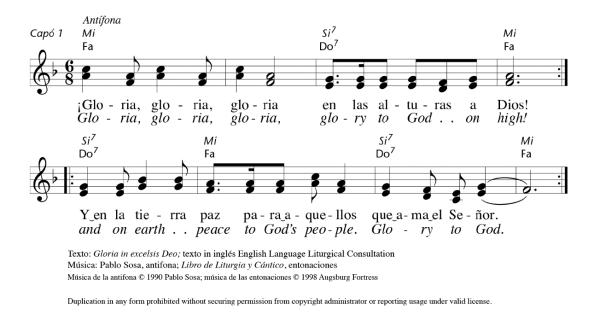
The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

L: A reading from the 1st chapter of Philippians.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

Gloria



The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

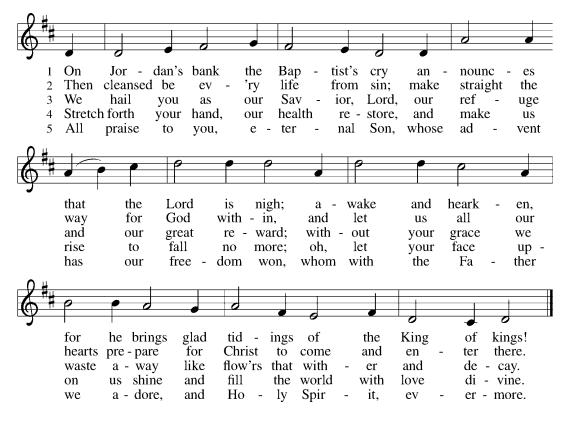
- P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.
- C: Glory to you, O Lord.
- P: ¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

- P: The gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (*especially those we mention now or in the comfort of our hearts*). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

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

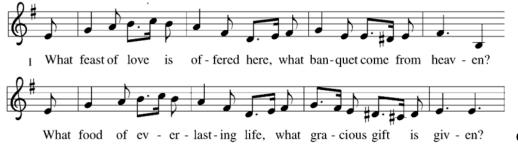
C: And also with you.

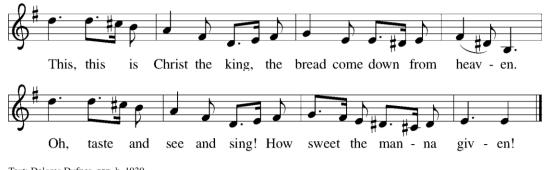
OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "Prepare the Royal Highway"-Hal Hopson

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

What Feast of Love





Text: Delores Dufner, 058, b. 1939 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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Offering Prayer

- P: Together we pray. Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.
- C: You set the table with plenty of love.
- P: Prepare room in your home
- C: for my neighbor and me.
- P: Prepare a place in your vision
- C: for my neighbor and me.
- P: Prepare a seat at your table
- C: for my neighbor and me.
- P: Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.
- C: You set the table with plenty of love.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

- P: God is with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Offer your hearts to God
- C: We do, because we know God cares for us.
- P: We give thanks to God.
- C: God always deserves our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: God, yours was the First Thought; before any human lived or knew your name, you whispered, and creation built itself around your words. Before your ancient people knew the depth of your love, you promised them goodness, and led them to freedom.

C: Your love grows unseen.

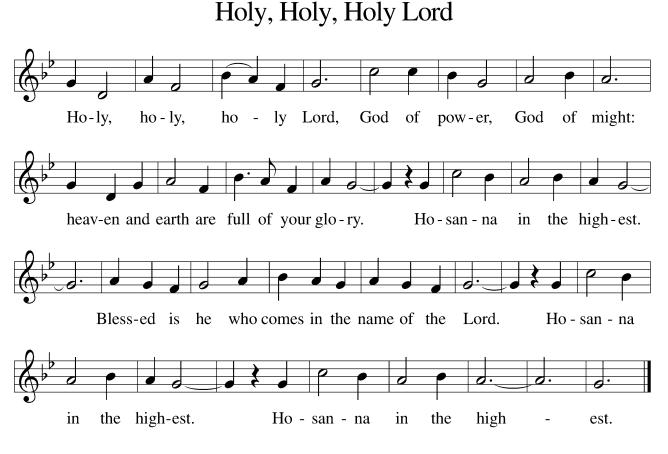
P: Before the world knew your face, your own child was born in a quiet stable.

C: Your love blooms in the dark.

P: Before we knew the depth of your love, your child died, crucified, and you forgave, and new life grew in the grave.

C: Your love echoes in the silence.

P: Once you made Mary agelessly blessed. Once you turned turncoat disciples into the family of the forgiven. You wrote the words for their hope, and they sang the song of joy. What you have done for them you have also done for us. So we sing your praise:



Text: "Sanctus," tr. English Language Liturgical Consultation Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

On a night of betrayal, Jesus pulled close friends closer to eat with them one last time.

Jesus taught them, Jesus served them, Jesus took bread and said, This is my body, given for you, so you can eat it whenever you are hungry and every time you are hungry you can know my love.

Then Jesus took a cup filled with wine, and said, My forgiveness is more than words. This is my blood, poured out for you, so you can drink it to know that I forgive every sin.

This is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus. Jesus, we remember you died.

C: We remember.

P: We remember God's love sparked life in your dead body.

C: We remember.

P: We remember you shall return to empty every grave.

C: We remember.

- P: And we remember these gifts as we pray the way Jesus taught us.:
- C: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness; and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace. People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.



Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 631 Verses 1&3

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Prayer after Communion

P: God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.

C: Your love is often unrecognizable, unappreciated, gentle and unnoticed.

P: But in this place we have noticed what others do not see.

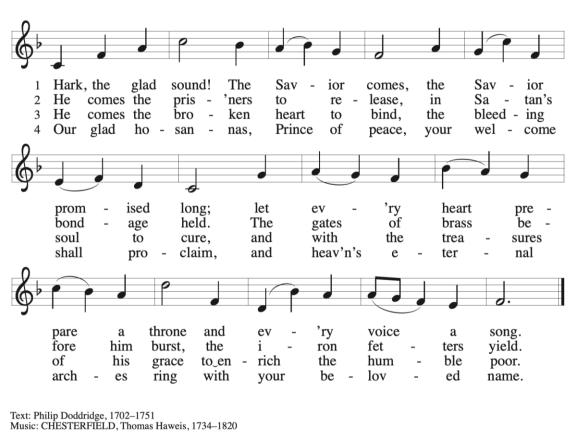
C: We have tasted your unspoken goodness. And now we will magnify your love.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: Where is the care in this world? Where is the faith we were promised? Where is the hope we desired, when peace moves into our homes, and joy is a constant presence, and justice is for everyone?

C: God, this world waits to know that your love is more than words. Sending Song: ELW 239



Hark, the Glad Sound!

DISMISSAL

P: People of God, you have already shared the advent of God's goodness. You carry the blessing of God, God, the First Whisper, Jesus, the Living Promise, Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts. Now go into this world expecting God's justice and nurturing God's peace. **C: God, we will magnify your love.**

Postlude:



Our Outreach envelopes for December will support AHUB (Advocates for the Homeless in Upper Bucks) as they work to provide Code Blue shelter to the homeless during bad weather.

| ANNOUNCEMENTS | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|----------------------|--|--|
| December | BIRTHDAYS | | ANNIVERSARIES | | BAPTISMS | | |
| 8 | | | Dianna & Peter Streletz (33) | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | Lois Altemose | | |
| 11 | | | | | Alex Crouse | | |
| 14 | Victoria Phillipps, Benjamin Williams | | | | Lee Ann Kressman | | |
| | · | <u>TH</u> | IS WEEK'S ACT | IVITIES | | | |
| Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent | | 9:15 AM 10:00 AM After Worship 5:00PM-7:00 PM | | Adult Sunday school in the library. Communion Worship Congregational meeting followed by covered dish Confirmation Class @ St. Luke's Ferndale | | | |
| Monday, Deo | | | M- 3:00 PM | Admin Office Hours | | | |
| Tuesday, December 10 | | 7:00PM | | Monthly Council Meeting | | | |
| Wednesday, December 11 | | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | | Office Hours Live Nativity at Trinity Pleasant Valley | | | |
| Saturday, December 14 5 | | | M and 7:00PM COMING ACTI | | nity Pleasant Valley | | |
| Sunday, December 15 | | | | 1 | al in the library | | |
| | | 9:15 AM 9:30 AM | | Adult Sunday school in the library Choir Rehearsal | | | |
| Third Sunday of Advent | | 10:00 AM | | Communion Worship | | | |
| | | After Worship | | Caroling and Poinsettia delivery to homebound | | | |
| Monday, December 16 | | 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM | | Admin Office Hours | | | |
| Tuesday, December 17 | | 1:00 PM | | Christian Education Meeting @ Church Office | | | |
| Wednesday, December 18 | | 10:00AM | | Choir Rehearsal | | | |
| | | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | | Office Hours | | | |
| Thursday, December 19 | | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM | | Office hours | | | |
| | | 12:00 PM | | Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim | | | |
| | | 1:00 - 3:00 PM | | Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's | | | |
| | Friday; December 20 | | M | Decorating the Church | | | |
| Sunday, December 22 | | 9:15 AM | | Adult Sunday School in Library | | | |
| Fourth Sunday of Advent | | 9:30 AM | | Choir Rehearsal | | | |
| | | 10:00 AM | | Communion Worship | | | |
| Name - D | | 1.00.01 | 4 2.00 514 | 11:30-1:30 Messy | | | |
| | | | M- 3:00 PM | Admin Office Hours | | | |
| Tuesday, December 24 5:00 P | | | Worship with Bishop Penman at Upper Tinicu | | | | |
| Nativity of our Lord 7:00 PI | | | Communion Worship No Office Hours | | | | |
| | | CHRISTMAS | Admin Office Hours | | | | |
| Thursday, December 26 10 | | | AM - 1:00 PM | | | | |



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; George Kreitz; Frank Mammana; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Bethany Michl; Silas Rodenbach; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Clay Butler; Doris Calverley; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; David Davis; Nancy Edelen; Leon Errico; Nora Fallon; Fred Foerster; Gabriella Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee

Goodman; Jason Gourley; Rev. Bradley Gow; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Mary Lily; Rev. David Lisner; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jim Pavlica; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Bart Shaw; Laurel Sheetz; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound:

James Altemose; Cleo Eck; Frank Mammana; Jayne Miller and Ed Xander.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Norma Fox and Kenneth Hager

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: <u>joanmammana@icloud.com</u>

| Worship Assistants | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Preacher | Rev. James Heckman | | | |
| Organist/Choir Director | Carolyn Williams | | | |
| Altar Guild | Mark Harwick, Linda Sauter, Suzanne Mauer | | | |
| Greeter(s) | Diana Streletz | | | |
| Acolyte | Josephine Williams | | | |
| Lector | Becky Praster | | | |
| Head / Communion Usher | Mark Harwick and Ben Williams | | | |
| Council Communion / Counting | Jack Pyne & Ken Anderson | | | |
| Technology & Livestreaming | Ken Anderson | | | |
| Administrative | Kathryn Wagner | | | |
| Custodian | Dianna Streletz | | | |

Worship Assistants

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM- ORDERS MUST GO IN VICTORIA PHILLIPS' MAILBOX BY DEC 15!

| <u>Name:</u> | | | <u>Phone</u> <u>Number:</u> | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | <u>Plant</u> | Dia | <u>Total</u> | | |
| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Amount</u> | In Honor/In Memory of | |
| - | <u>Red Poinsettia</u> | <u>\$8.00</u> | - | - | |
| - | White Poinsettia | <u>\$8.00</u> | - | - | |
| - | <u>Grand Total</u> | - | - | - | |