



WELCOME TO THIS
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION of the
living Christ's presence
in our midst. Christ
comes to us with new
life and strength for
Christian living in
daily life through the
hearing of the Word,
preaching, prayer,
song, and community.

*As the Confession and
Forgiveness begins, all
may make the sign of
the cross, the sign that
is marked at baptism.*

*Congregational
responses are in bold*

** Asterisks
throughout the
order of worship
indicate the people
standing, in body
and/or in spirit.*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christine Lind, Reader

PRELUDE "My Lord, What a Morning"

arr. Lau

Shirley Newhart, organ

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 1

Leader: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's
advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet
our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

People: **Amen.**

Light the first candle.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at
baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Long expected God,

People: **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We cling to old habits and harmful patterns,
reluctant to let go of the familiar ways that divide and do harm.**

**We grow impatient in the waiting
and weary of keeping watch.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony
with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

Leader: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

People: **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG “My Lord, What a Morning”

Hymn 438



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

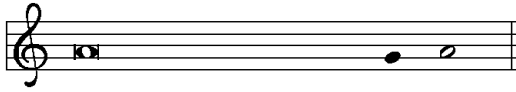
Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

*GREETING

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

People: And also with you.

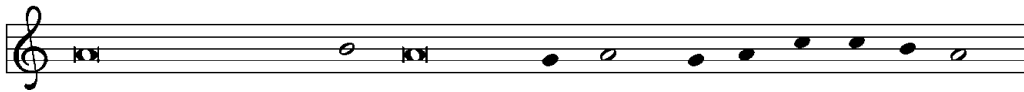
*KYRIE



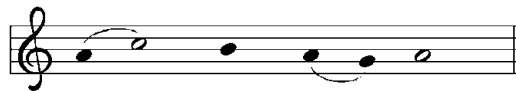
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



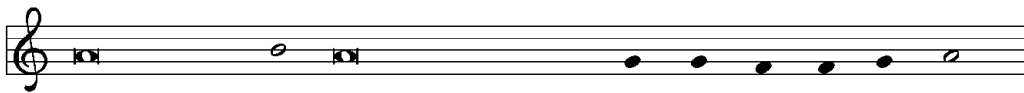
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

"Kyrie" is a Greek word meaning "Lord." In Christian liturgy, particularly in Kyrie Eleison, it's used as a plea for God's mercy. The full phrase, "Kyrie eleison," translates to "Lord, have mercy," and has a common element in various Christian worship services since the 4th century.

What happened to the "Canticle of Praise?" During the season of Advent, the church adopts a more reflective and hopeful tone as we wait for Christ's coming. To honor this spirit of anticipation, the Canticle of Praise is traditionally omitted. This simple change helps create space for quieter expectation, allowing the season's themes of longing, preparation, and hopeful watching to shape our worship

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: 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.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “I’ve Never Been This Homesick Before” Rambo

*Howard Anderson, Trevor Olson, Rodney Powers, arr. Linn
Jason Talsness, Gospel Quartet*

*There's a light in the window, the table spread in splendor. Someone's
standing by the open door.
I can see a crystal river, so I must be near forever. Lord I've never been this
homesick before.*

*See the bright light shine, it's just about hometime. I can see the Father
standing at the door.*

*This world has been a wilderness, I'm ready for deliverance.
Lord I've never been this homesick before.*

*I can see the family gather, sweet faces all familiar. No one's old or feeble
anymore.*

*This lonesome heart is crying, think I'll spread my wings for flying. Lord I've
never been this homesick before*

WORD

Christine Lind, Reader

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

Old Testament 591

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!”

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.

PSALM: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)

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.**

*The reading of
Scripture is when God
makes known his will:
God desires mercy and
salvation.*

*Ultimately, this word
points us to the Word,
the incarnate Son of
God.*

*Through Christ —
God's only Son — are
we able to know the
Father's favor and
grace.*

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: Romans 13:11-14

New Testament 142

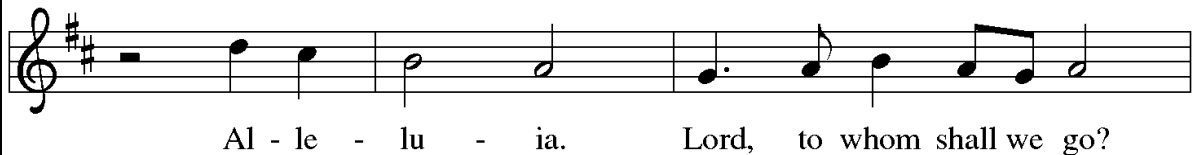
Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

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.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

New Testament 24

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.

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.

SERMON

Reverend Jason Talsness

ALTAR FLOWERS
(both vases) today are
given by **Lynda Beam**
“in loving memory of
Robert Guerry Beam
and Kirby Franklin
Beam.”

**THE ETERNAL
CANDLE** for
November is given by
**Katharine & John
Marshall** “in
thankfulness for the
people of Messiah.”

***HYMN OF THE DAY “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”**



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

RECOGNITION OF LEGACY GIFT

From the estate of the late Mary Stewart

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)

Leader: God of Grace,

People: Hear our prayer.

(Final petition and response.)

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

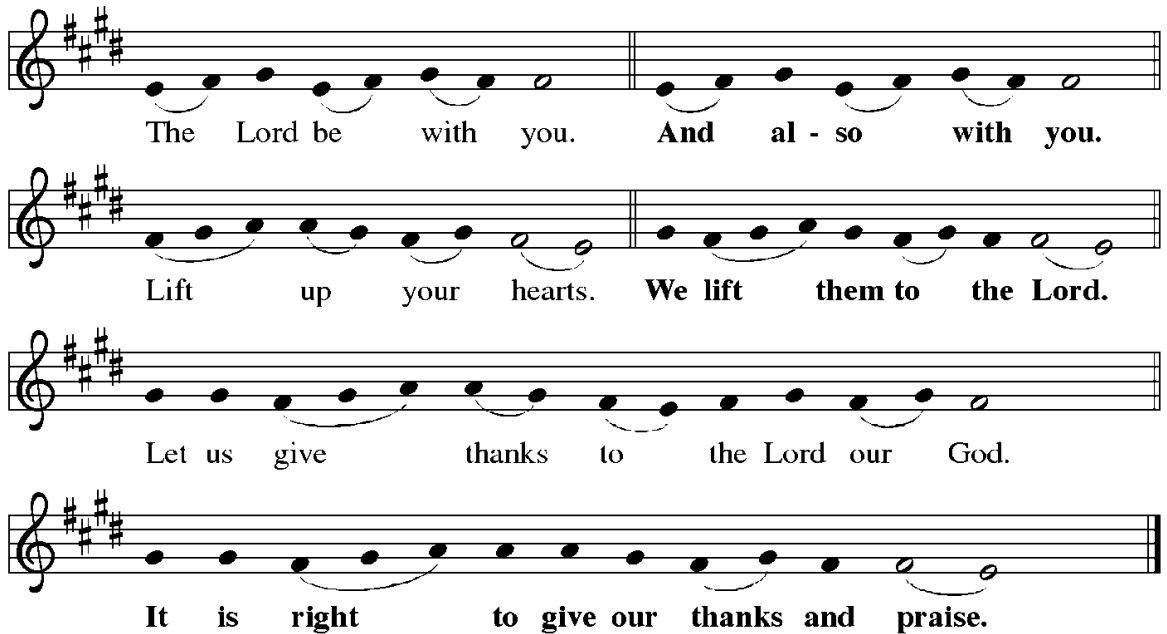
People: Amen.

That Christ visited the dead after his crucifixion is based on I Peter 4:6 "For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does."

In the Apostles' Creed, the phrase "holy catholic Church" refers to the universal Christian church, not exclusively the Roman Catholic Church. It signifies the belief in a single, unified body of believers across time and space, united by their shared faith in Christ.

MEAL

*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

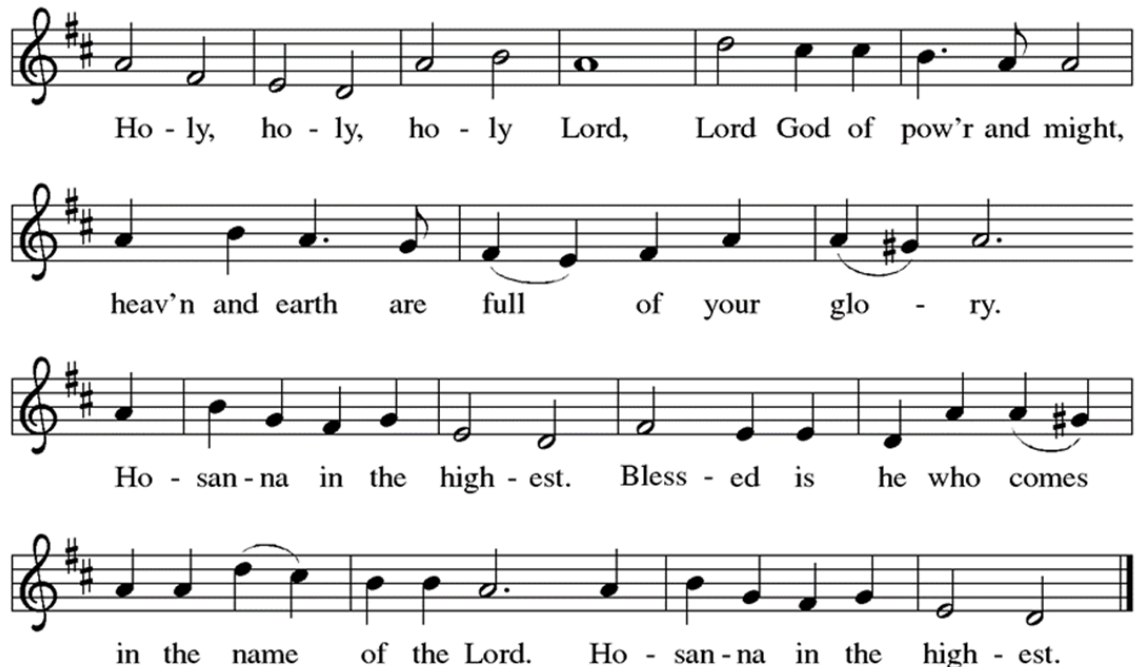
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: God our host,

People: 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

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

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.

*SENDING SONG “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

Hymn 244



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE** “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” arr. Westenluehler
Shirley Newhart, organ

SERMON PREVIEW

The new church year begins with a wakeup call: Be alert! Christ is coming soon. We do not know when, but the advent of Christ (“advent” means “arrival”) will happen. We are to be prepared and alert. The promised day of salvation is to be met with eagerness not indifference. So, the season of Advent is a time of watchfulness. Questions for Reflection: When have you been surprised by something that you should have known was coming? How does the promise of peace and wholeness in Christ influence how you view threatening events in the news today? Do scriptural passages concerning the end of time intrigue you? Or do they seem irrelevant?

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 30	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, December 1	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Shirley & Friends 5:00 pm Ronald McDonald House Dinner <i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, December 2	
Wednesday, December 3	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group 2:15 pm Shirley & Friends 5:30 pm Advent Supper 6:15 pm Advent Midweek Worship 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, December 4	3:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 5	<i>1:00 pm Needlepoint Society</i>
Saturday, December 6	8:30 am Men's Group Decorates Christmas Tree in Sanctuary 9:00 am Other Church Decorating Activities

Italics indicate outside group



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Cheryl Liebgott and Layne Rabold
Reader	Christine Lind
Evangelism Greeters	Yvonne Johnson and Karen Munson
Ushers	Diana & Geoff Wilson
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread and Marcia Stinson
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (Host) and Dawn Meade (Treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Alison McVeigh 11/20, Lyric Olson 12/01, Phil Nack 12/05

Anniversaries: Connie & Billy Ray 12/03

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

The holidays will soon be here, so mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Decorating the Church will be Saturday, December 6. The Men's Group will begin work on the Sanctuary tree at 8:30 am. The women of the church will meet in Peper Hall at 9:00 am to decorate the tree in that room and the rest of the Church.
- The annual Christmas Party is Sunday, December 7 at 5 pm in Peper Hall. Messiah will provide ham and wine, and revelers are asked to contribute their favorite holiday dish. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk.
- The Ladies Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, December 11, at 5:00 pm at the 5 Spot in Sandfly. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk.
- Advent begins on Sunday, November 30, with midweek supper and worship at 5:30 pm on December 3, 10, and 17.
- The Ladies' Epiphany Tea is at 10 am on Saturday, January 3. Details next week!

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Christmas Trees

Deadline: Sunday, December 14

Beginning today, the Outreach Ministry will have their Christmas trees up in the Narthex and ready for shopping and giving. There will be one tree for students from The Learning Academy (formerly Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy). The second tree will support Ronald McDonald House families. An Outreach Ministry representative will be by each tree after Sunday worship to answer questions and give guidance.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

'Tis the season to ring the bell! This year, Messiah members are invited to sign up on the Salvation Army website directly. You may sign up as individuals or form your own group. The website is registertoring.com. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Nguyen (jenniferjnguyen@yahoo.com; 912.713.2797).

Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia

December's food is canned and dried fruit (raisins, apricots, cherries, craisins, etc.).

Messiah donated 148 cans of vegetables weighing 121 pounds in November. Many churches were picking up food when our food was delivered. Great job!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Deadline: Monday, December 15

Christmas is coming, and soon Messiah's Sanctuary will be brimming with poinsettias. We invite you to give a Christmas poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. The dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The cost is \$14 per plant. To order, please pick up an envelope in the Sanctuary, Narthex, or Church Office. Then fill in the form, enclose your check, and return it to the Church Office or place it in the offering plate by Monday, December 15.

MAKING MUSIC AT CHRISTMAS

Choir Director Rodney Powers will be leading weekly rehearsals for people who want to sing Christmas music during worship this year. He invites everyone who is interested to meet at the Sanctuary piano following worship for a short twenty-minute rehearsal. This includes both the Chancel Choir and seasonal volunteers from the congregation.

Mary Carolyn Stewart
May 8, 1931, to October 27, 2023



CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

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770.570.7407

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Randi VenHuizen(2025)

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*Milda Blaney is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.