

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Monday, Dec 22: Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20;

Tuesday, Dec 23: Luke 1:46b-55; 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29; Galatians 3:6-14;

Wednesday, Dec 24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Thursday, Dec 25: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

Friday, Dec 26: Psalm 148; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8;

Saturday, Dec 27: Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12;

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tethered

When we were children, we fell asleep
with walkie talkies tucked under our pillows.
All that separated us was a bathroom,
a hallway, a few feet of empty space,
but as children, even small distances can feel like miles.

So after the parents whispered prayers over our skinned knees
and spelling tests, after they kissed our sweaty foreheads and tucked us into
bed, we'd pull the walkie talkies out from under our pillows.
We'd roll the dial on the top of the transceiver.
We'd sputter that invisible tether to life.

And with a few crackles in the quiet of the night,
you'd whisper my name.
I'd press down the button.
I'd promise I was close.

As an adult, I don't know what ever happened
to those blue-grey walkie talkies.
But I know,
that even today,
if the monsters in the closet feel too real,
and you whisper my name,
I promise I'll be close.



Beginnings Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

*Please take the opportunity to fill out the Prayer and Gratitude Card, along with a Connection Card.
You'll be invited to place them in the offering tray later in the service.*

ENTRANCE

Prelude

Choral Introit

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Jill Dombrowski

Gobin Bells

“Promised One”

Welcome

Call to Worship

Rev. Bryan Langdoc

Here in worship—

we pray together, we stand together,
we sing together, we listen together.

Here in worship—we are not alone.

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry,
remember this moment.

We are not alone.

Let us worship our with-us God.

Prayer

Inhale: **May I seek and share**

Exhale: **the love that flows from God.**

Prayer Hymn

“A Stable Lamp is Lighted”

Advent Candle Lighting

UMH #203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Gobin Bells

Julia Bruggemann

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 41:5-10

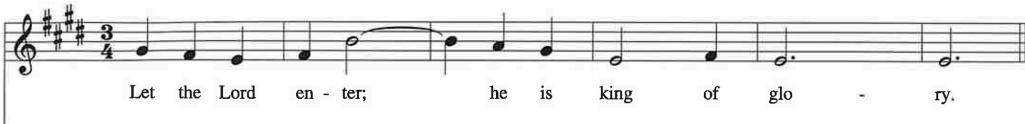
After the Reading, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Chant

Rev. Bryan Langdon



Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

- The Lord’s are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
- Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.
- He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Silence follows. Then the People stand as they are able.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

...

After the Gospel, the Pastor says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Invitation to Prayground

Sermon

Pastor Joel Everson

BE PART OF OUR PICTURE DIRECTORY!

We had folks who were unable to participate in our first round of directory pictures, so here's your second (and final) chance to have a FREE photo taken of you and/or your family. You will receive a free 8x10 and a copy of our completed directory. We hope you will sign up with the directions and link below!

Please let Sarah or Alisa know if you have any questions.

You can also call the office and Sarah can schedule your session.

Directory Picture Day #2: Monday, January 26th

2:00 - 8:00 PM

To schedule your photography appointment online simply go to www.ucdir.com and click on photography session sign up. The login is **in2034** and the password is **photos**.

You can also scan the QR code below and use the above login and password.



STAY CONNECTED

Want to receive our weekly email updates?

Sign up here: www.gobin.live/email

Stay in the loop

Print communication is important. Email can sometimes be even better. And occasionally a quick text message is best! If you'd like to stay “in the loop” and receive text updates about all things Gobin, text the word “loop” to (765)650-4644.

Make sure to save this number as “Gobin Church”!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, or otherwise in need of prayer or visitation, please fill out a prayer card, or let the pastoral staff or church office know. Jai will work to keep us connected.

Here are members of our Gobin connection who need prayer & comfort at this time:

Margot MacCracken, Brandie Sitton, Andrea Insley, Ashlee Vitz, Sandy Miller, Katie Isaacs-Bailey, Jim & Windy Watt, Phillip Caldwell, Luke & Sherry DeJaynes, Larry Rider, Ann Hansen, Leland Zellers, Marcia Linville, Matt Fruits, Family of Masey Ward, the Diaz-Gomez families, Kids Hope mentors & students, Valyrian residents, residents of the Putnam Co. Jail, Kyaw, Vivi, Treasure, Yun Ling, Ajaypal Singh and all ICE detainees in the Clay Co Detention Center

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please fill out a prayer request card or send an email to prayers@gobinumc.org

OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

You may have noticed the votive candles near the entrance to the sanctuary. We invite you to take one and join Wednesday morning prayer from 7:45-8am wherever you are. If you wish to have a candle, but are not able to come to the church, contact us and we will arrange to have someone bring it to you.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Make checks payable to Gobin Church
- Text “Gobin” to 73256
- Online at www.gobin.live/give
- Scan the QR code



THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

Prayers of the People

Pastor Jai Miranda

Invitation

Confession & Pardon

Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.

Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too.

So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

Now we must ask—

**when you were afraid,
did we stay by your side?**

**Did we offer our hands,
or did we leave you alone?**

**When you were afraid,
did we choose solidarity?**

**Did we see your fear?
Or did we only see ours?**

Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.

Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too.

So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

We accept your grace and would love to start again.

May it be so, with God's help.

Alleluia, amen.

Passing the Peace

Offering

Offertory

Doxology

Jill Dombrowski

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God, above ye Heavenly Host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offering Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

Communion Song

Jill Dombrowski

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

“We’re Not Alone”

Insert

SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

Jill Dombrowski

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Tonight @ 6:00pm

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending.

We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE

Join us as we gather for worship during this season.

Sunday services will be at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM.

Longest Night

December 21 @ 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve

December 24 @ 6:00 PM

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28

Epiphany

January 4