

**BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AT ROSEMONT
1705 West Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018**



**LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024**



OUR MISSION

Christ has called us together to do God's Work.

**Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of
race, creed, age, national origin,
cultural background, sexual orientation, class,
physical or mental ability.**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

WELCOME

Lector Peace be upon all who enter this house.
A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are gathering here at Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont for the first time, or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Everything you need to follow along is found in your bulletin. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of fellowship following the gathering. Thanks for the gift of you!

Leader The Lord be with you.
Assembly And also with you.

PRELUDE Wake , Awake For Night is Flying - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Leader Advent is a time to hope for peace between people, and to walk in the light God gives us. The Advent wreath is round to remind us of God's never-ending love. The branches are green to remind us of new life. The candles remind us of the light which came into the world with Jesus: light to brighten all of earth's dark places; light that grows stronger when we join in his work of building and rebuilding lives. Today we light a candle for hope.

**Assembly Come, Christ, Hope of our hearts.
Enter our lives
so that all people may have a place to stand.**

*It doesn't matter who you are or where you're coming from,
This place has got an open door to make you feel at home.*

Assembly sings stanza one.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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*The assembly stands as they are able for the Gathering, Gathering Hymn,
Sentence and Prayer of the Day.*

GATHERING

Pastor Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,
the love at our beginning and without end,
in our midst and with us.
God is with us, here we find new life.

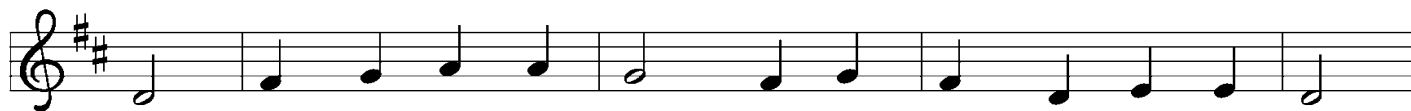
Leader Watch, wait, hope!
Even now, the tender leaves of peace may be growing on the trees of life.
Watch, wait, hope!
For the wonder of new love may be moving towards its birthing.

**Assembly The Christ will come.
The Word of God will not fail us.
Keep awake!
For the shadows of our doubt will be lifted
and singing sounds in the distance.
The Christ will come.
The Word of God will not fail us.**

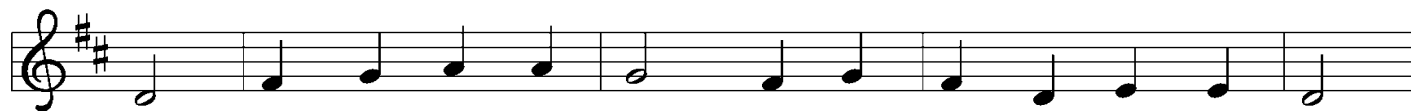
Pastor Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

GATHERING HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Leader The days are surely coming,
when I will fulfill the promise I made:
I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David;
who will execute justice in the land. - *Jeremiah 33:14-15*

Pastor God our deliverer, whose approaching birth still shakes the foundations of
our world, may we so wait for your coming with eagerness and hope that
we embrace without terror the labor pangs of the new age.

Assembly Amen! May it be so!

A READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

Lector Into this day will break moments of awareness,
tiny shards of light that illumine the whole reality of existence.

**Assembly May these readings be such a moment
and may we be blessed by their gift.**

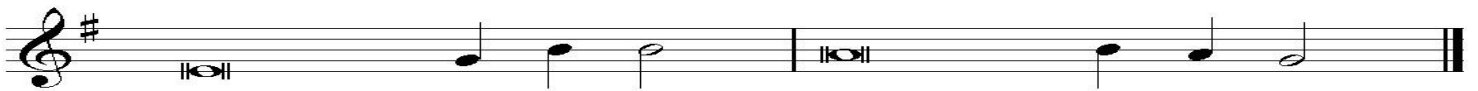
Lector A reading from the Old Testament the Book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Lector Let us wait,

Assembly and hope in God.

PSALMODY Psalm 25



To you O lord I lift up my soul; ... my God I [put] my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, ... nor let my enemies [tri]-umph over me.

**Let none who look to you be [put] to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed [in] their schemes.**

Show me your [ways] O lord,
and [teach me] your paths.

**Lead me in your [truth] and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; ...
in you have I trusted [all the] day long.**

Remember O lord your com-[passion] and love,
for they are from [ev]-erlasting.

**Remember not the sins of my youth and [my] transgressions;
remember me according to your love, ...
and for the sake of your [goodness] O Lord.**

Gracious and upright [is] the lord;
therefore he teaches sinners [in] his way.

**He guides the humble in [do]-ing right
and teaches his [way to] the lowly.**

All the paths of the lord are [love] and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant [and] his testimonies.

A READING 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Lector A reading from the New Testament
from Paul's letter to the people of Thessalonica.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Lector Let us wait,
Assembly and hope in God.

A READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Leader A reading from the world around us
Advent by Gretta Vosper

We've always been waiting.

Waiting for life to finally begin.

Waiting to grow up.

Waiting to get out of here.

Waiting for our ship to come in.

Waiting for the right guy, the right girl, the right somebody.

Waiting for the next shoe to drop.

Waiting for a smile.

Waiting for someone to know who we really are.

We've always been waiting.

In the moments, minutes, hours, days, years that we have,

then - the time between now and whatever is waiting to happen -

let's have a *good* time

and make it rich and beautiful for all.

Into and out of these waiting times,

we weave our lives...

Lector Let us wait,
Assembly and hope in God.

The assembly stands for the Acclamation and the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "King of kings and Lord of lords: glo-ry, hal-le-lu-jah. Je-sus, Prince of Peace: glo-ry, hal-le-lu-jah." The first two staves are identical. The third and fourth staves are also identical. Chord markings above the staves are: 1st staff: 1* Em, B7, Em; 2nd staff: B7, Em; 3rd staff: B7, Em; 4th staff: B7, Em. A '2' is written above the second measure of the third and fourth staves.

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

Pastor A reading from the + Holy Gospel as written to us by Luke.

Assembly Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Pastor This is Good News from the Lord.

Assembly Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

The assembly stands as they are able for the Hymn of the Day.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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The assembly may be seated or kneel for prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lector We are people of all ages who enter this space
bringing our joys and concerns.

Let us pray together in God's grace.

ORGAN OFFERTORY: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* – Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

OFFERTORY SONG We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Leader May we be empowered to find a meaning in life, a purpose, a belonging.
And in finding pleasure in receiving from life
may we also receive satisfaction in enriching life.

Assembly Amen. May it be so!



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Pastor Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

Assembly Blessed be God forever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord is with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Assembly **We lift them up to God.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

Assembly **It is right to offer our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Pastor O God, Mystery of winter skies,
we look for you in these shorter days
for opening our eyes to see your beauty;
for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light;
for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.
Jesus was promised by those who shared your dream of peace;
John the Baptist cleared the way with words of desert fire;
Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith;
we know that he draws near again to show us who we really are
with honesty and love. Now we take up the song of hope
that we might awaken to his coming among us
and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Pastor On the night before he died Jesus took bread;
when he had given thanks he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood which brings new life;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our
redeemer, we meet you in your glory.

THE OUR FATHER

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

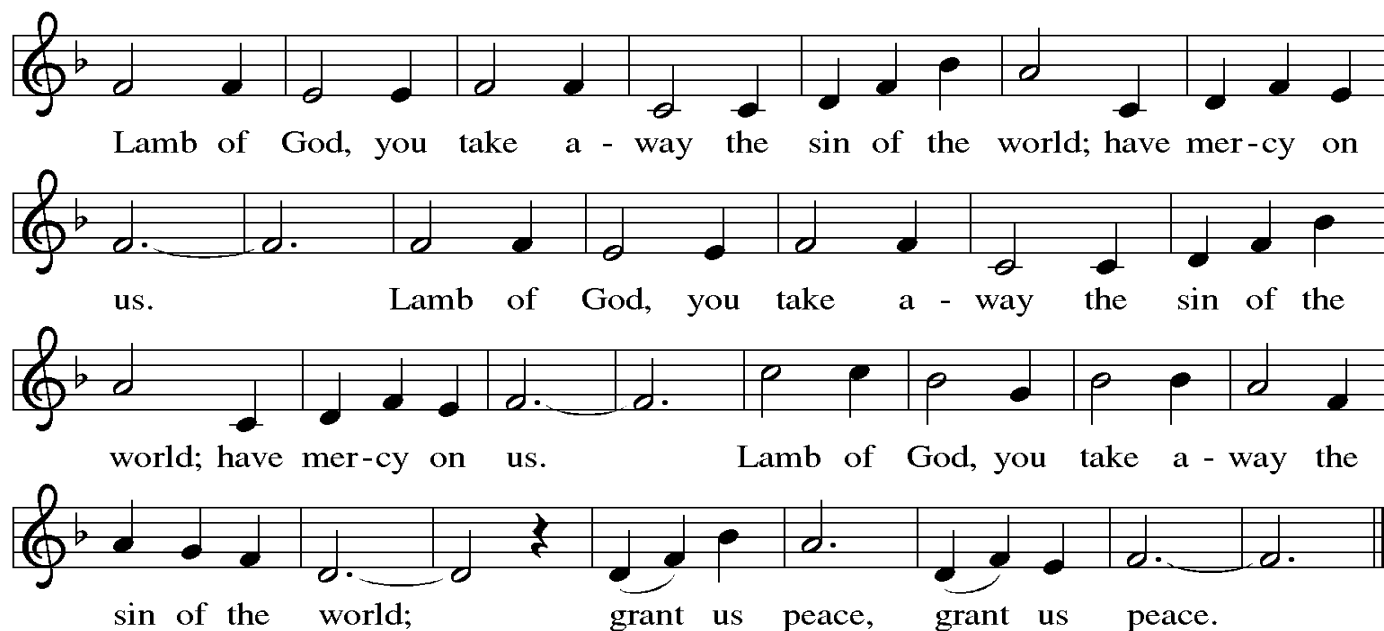
Pastor We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**Assembly God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

THE INVITATION

Pastor Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

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.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers – Hymnal 244

The King Shall Come – Hymnal 260

The assembly may stand as they are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader Most loving God, we are thankful for all we have shared
around this table of love. We are thankful that through faith,
hope will overcome doubt, love will overcome fear,
and light will overcome darkness.

May the blessing of the God of light be on us:

Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

Assembly Amen. May it be so!

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - - men

PARTING WORDS

Leader Celebration need not cease.

It can echo in our lives,
in our words,
in our deeds,
in our moods,
in our dreams.

Carry wonder and celebration with you wherever you may go.

Assembly We will be a blessing in our going out and your coming in.

SENDING HYMN

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor May the God you see in all of creation
arouse in you a sense of awe and wonder.
May the God who is a sacred presence be real to you.
May the God who is a source of inspiration and courage
keep calling you forward.
And may your God go with you and + bless you.

Assembly Amen! May it be so.

THE DISMISSAL

Leader Go now to dream together, pray together, work together,
to build one world of peace and justice for all.

Assembly Amen. We go in the light and promise of Christ.

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake For Night is Flying* – Anton W. Leupold (1868-1940)



FELLOWSHIP

Morning coffee and tea are now served.

You are invited upstairs to Laros Hall to share in this time of fellowship.

You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.

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Augsburg Fortress Liturgies #SB175371



Spending Our Time in The Dark

How did our ancestors experience the dark? In many ways, it is vastly different from today. They would have had no artificial lighting, not even candles until very recently in human history. Nighttime would have been darker than we can even imagine, so dark that they would have seen heavenly bodies we can only dream of in our sleep. Our own hand would not have been visible if we held it only inches from our face. In the darkness we can't see, we stumble and fall, we may even lose our way. It is here we are most afraid because it touches our deepest inner terror – where things go bump in the night. Danger and evil lurk around every corner.

Yet this journey of dark is earth's life cycle. Let's be reminded that perhaps we aren't afraid of the dark, we're afraid of being by ourselves, of being alone. Traditionally our Advent journey is about our interior, individual experience, which is why we shift our attention from the individual to moving through this Advent season communally. New life comes from a death, from the darkness that we fear so much. In those darkest corners lie our shadows, those unloved and unlived pieces of ourselves we have been avoiding or ignoring. These are our demons, our ghosts and the unknown, that sometimes are so dark we can't see through them, much like our ancestors experienced the night. This is why it is so important to turn and face that which we fear. For in so doing, we make friends with it, we make peace with what scares or angers us, and with our deepest pain – and we bring ourselves into the light once again.

Holiday Happenings

Thursday, November 28th
Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

Friday, November 29th
Office Closed

Sunday, December 1st
9:30am Worship
10:45am Congregational Meeting followed by a Luncheon

Wednesday, December 4th
6:00pm Advent Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 8th
Pantry Sunday
9:30am Worship
Congregational Council Meeting
Christmas Card Signing

Wednesday, December 11th
6:00pm Advent Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer

Saturday, December 14th
12:00pm Wreaths Across America
(Fountain Hill Cemetery, Graham St)

Wednesday, December 18th
6:00pm Advent Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
4:00pm music, 4:30pm worship
7:00pm music, 7:30pm worship

December 25th-30th: Office Closed

Wednesday, January 1st: Happy New Year!
Office Closed