

# **Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, Connecticut**

**The Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025**

**Holy Eucharist Rite 2 ~ 10 a.m.**

**Book of Common Prayer page 355**

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn: #65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"**

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**People:** And Blessed be his kingdom, now & forever. Amen

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

**The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy**

Reader: Last Sunday the candle of Peace was lit. We light it and the candle of Hope again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace. The third candle of Advent is the candle of Joy. We light this candle to remember that Christ brings promise of a new life and to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

**The Candle of Joy is lit**

**Let us pray (*in unison*):** Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us to prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. Amen

**Introit Hymn #56 "O come, O come Emmanuel" vs 5, 6**

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

**Refrain:** *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

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shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**The Collect of the Day: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord ***People: Thanks be to God***

**Canticle 15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat***

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**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \***

**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***

**the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.***

## **The Second Lesson: James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord ***People: Thanks be to God***

## **Sequence Hymn**

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

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ***

## **The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord *People: Praise to you Lord Christ*

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Ronald Kolanowski**

**Creed written by 2019 confirmation class**

**We believe in God who is creator of all things, known and unknown. We believe God is the ruler of all who redeems us and saves us from sin and death. We believe God is universal, everywhere, infinite and powerful.**

**We believe Jesus, who is God’s only begotten Son is the incarnation of the Trinity. Jesus is God’s servant who provides for us. He carries out God’s plans and is always present in our lives. Jesus is the one who brings hope and is the healer of outcasts and sinners. He is the loving shepherd of Israel and our teacher, the guardian of peace and most holy prophet.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit—the mystery of our faith from which all ideas flow and source of our inspiration. She is the uniting force of all things and the manifestation of the Trinity and hope of all peoples. This Spirit is the guide to righteousness and the purpose of life.**

**We believe the Church is the uniting force for freedom, truth and justice. The church is a safe place to worship God; the shrine of the Trinity. It is the place of holy repentance, refuge and healing. The Church builds a sense of community in the world.**

## **Prayers of the People for Advent**

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; for our bishops, Jeff and Laura; for Ron, our priest; for Doug our seminarian; for Donna and Marge, our deacons, for all deacons and priests, and for the entire people of God, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

***Silence***

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely and the oppressed; for Swords to Plowshares; *the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil*.

***Silence***

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation and its leaders, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

***Silence***

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially Jordan, Joan Christmas, Pat, April Trujillo, Charlene Neylon, Ellen B. and Family, Chris B., Bonnie R., Bob ManWarren, John Viklinetz and those in our Continuing Prayer list that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs. We pray for the deceased, remembering especially Jean Vigezzi.

***Silence***

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthdays especially Erin Woods 12/15; Amy Stone 12/18; Elizabeth Cyr 12/19; John Gerke 12/19, and for those celebrating anniversaries, that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

***Silence***

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God with Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

***Silence***

Come Lord Jesus,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Presider: For what else shall we pray this day?

Presider: O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

## **The Confession**

**BCP page 360**

## **The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

***People: And also with you***

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory**

**Offertory Hymn: #437 “Tell out, my soul the greatness of the Lord”**

***The Doxology is sung while the offering is brought to the altar.***

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP page 367**

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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: S-130 "Holy, holy, holy Lord" (in unison)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***Celebrant and People***

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

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...

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

**The Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

**BCP, page 364**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

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

***People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

**Fraction Anthem: #712 "Dona nobis Pacem"**



**Communion Hymn: #640 "Watchmen, tell us of the night"**

**Post Communion Prayer (*in unison*)**

**BCP, page 366**

**The Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: #76 "On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry"**

**Dismissal**

### **Advent/Christmas Memorial card**

You can remember loved ones and support our Advent and Christmas services by filling out the card in your pew or at the back of the church. Return the card in its envelope by mail or place it in the offertory box.

### **Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for Dec. 14, 2025**

#### **Continuing Prayer List**

Ann, Dolores, Michael H, Carolyn Aubin, Eileen, Bonnie R., Renee, Fran, Hannah Janowiak, Sarah, Leslie Vallee, Kelly Johnson, Mario, Maria, John Lumsden, Rosemarie, David Rigby, Roberto Rodegher, Linda Snarski, Len & Kim Begin, Sheila, Peter & Barbara Farren, Peggy Cobb & family, Andrew, Adrian Mandeville, Neal, Loretta, Robin, Brenda, Jim, Richard Taylor, Judy Knox, Star, Norm, Aimee Goodrich, Justin, Derek Anderson, Janet Nixon, Bill D., Steve Dubin, Ryan, Marlin Corbean; Brian; Kathryn & Olivia; Caroline, Ron Lamp, Lou & Heidi Schluntz, Ambrosio Vidal & Family, Jeannette Farren, Rina Bettancourt; Susan Hicks & family

#### **Up and coming Events**

**St. Peter's is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 1-6 on Dec. 17.**

**Their supplies are very low. Please go on their website ([redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)) or call ([1-800-733-2767](tel:1-800-733-2767)) and sign up to give this precious Christmas Gift.**

**Gilead Congregational Church is once again this year offering "A Quiet Christmas" on December 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. (672 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT) in a service, which will offer comfort, healing, and hope in a season where those things may be hard to find.**

# MUSIC MOVES HARTFORD

**December 13, 2025, 2:30pm**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St. Hebron, CT**

The community choir, **Music Moves Hartford** (MMH), was formed in 2018 as a collaborative effort between Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford and Cuatro Puntos, a non-profit organization that works to amplify persecuted, silenced or underrepresented musicians. Marianne Vogel (formerly music director at Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron) now coordinates MMH as part of her role as Music Director at the Episcopal Cathedral in Hartford. She says, "**Music Moves Hartford** is a true community-based choir of people from all walks of life." The group rehearses at Hands-On-Hartford, an organization helping hundreds of people receive food, housing, and medical and behavioral health resources. Each week as many as 30-40 people gather to sing and build community. In this concert MMH will perform some of their own pieces of music and lead a carol sing to get us into the spirit of the season. A meet & greet reception follows the concert.

**Recommended donation \$20 at the door.**

**Your donation will support their on-going mission to support singers from all walks of life.**

