



**December 14, 2025
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Hebron, Connecticut
The Rev. Ronald Kolanowski, Rector**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT
8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist: RITE I
Book of Common Prayer page 323**

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom now and 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

The Kyrie

BCP page 324

The Gloria

BCP page 324

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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”

BCP, Page 91

**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***

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

The Holy 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.”

Sermon

The Rev. Ronald Kolanowski

The Nicene Creed

BCP, page 326

Prayers of the People

BCP, page 328

Confession of Sin

BCP, page 330

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you

People: And with thy spirit

Holy Communion

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP, page 333

The Sanctus

BCP, page 334

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP, page 336

The Breaking of the bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Agnus Dei

BCP, page 337

Prayer before Communion (in unison)

BCP, page 337

Communion

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, page 339

The Blessing

The Dismissal

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Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for Dec. 14, 2025

We pray for our clergy: Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Jeff & Laura, the Bishops of Connecticut; for our priest Ron; for our seminarian Doug, for our deacons Donna & Marge; and for all bishops, priests and deacons;

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*.

In St Peter's Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all our parish family, especially Jordan, Joan Christmas, Pat, April Trujillo, Charlene Neylon, Ellen B. and Family, Chris B., Bonnie R., Bob ManWarren, John Viklinetz and for those who are listed in our Continuing Prayers list,

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week especially Erin Woods 12/15; Amy Stone 12/18; Elizabeth Cyr 12/19; John Gerke 12/19, and those celebrating anniversaries.

We pray for the deceased.

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

St. Peter's is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 1-6 on December 17. Their supplies are very low. Please go on their website redcrossblood.org or call ([tel: 1-800-733-2767](tel:1-800-733-2767)) and sign up to give this precious Christmas Gift. Walk-ins are welcome!

Advent/Christmas Memorial card, with which you can memorialize loved ones who are no longer with you and support our Advent and Christmas services is available at the back of the church. The card can be returned in the accompanying envelope by mail or placed in the offertory box. We would like to have the names to be remembered as soon as possible so we can prepare our memorial list for the Christmas bulletins.

Gilead Congregational Church is once again this year offering "A Quiet Christmas" on December 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (672 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT) 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.

