



December 21, 2025
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Hebron, Connecticut
The Rev. Ronald Kolanowski, Rector

THE FOURTH 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of joy. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy. The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of **Love**. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us.

The Candle of Peace is lit

Let us pray (*in unison*): Loving God, thank you for your gift of love.
Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship.
Help us to hear and do your word. Amen.

The Kyrie

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The Gloria

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Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

The Second Lesson: From a letter from Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord ***People: Praise be to thee O, Christ***

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)

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Communion

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, page 339

The Blessing

The Dismissal



Parish Family Remembrances and Thanksgivings for Dec. 21, 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 Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport The children of the world & all ECCT ministries for children at risk The Anglican Church of Burundi

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 Christopher Gerke 12/23, Catherine Gerke 12/23, Christine Eells 12/25, and those celebrating anniversaries.

We pray for the deceased remembering Jean Vigezzi whose funeral will be held at Aurora-McCarthy this Friday at 1 p.m.

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.

Advent and Christmas Services 2025

- **December 20: Greening and Decorating the Church 10:00a.m.** Join fellow parishioners as we prepare our church for the Feast of Christmas
- **December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent – 8 a.m. Service (Rite 1 with no music), Christmas Pageant at the 10 a.m. service.** The Pageant is presented by our children and youth.
- **December 24: Christmas Eve 4:00p.m.** followed by Christmas Toast. Given that fewer and fewer people are comfortable driving at night we will have one large service planned for Christmas Eve with brass, special musicians, and Christmas carols. Please stay afterwards to toast in Christmas with champagne or mimosas, sparkling water, and a few goodies.
- **December 25: Christmas Day,** a single service with carols at 10:00 a.m.
- **December 28: First Sunday of Christmas: One Service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m.**
- **January 5: Feast of The Epiphany**
8a.m. Rite I no music and 10:00a.m. Rite II with music; Sermon by Rev. Ron Kolanowski