A nighttime photograph of a park path, likely Central Park in New York City. The path is illuminated by streetlights, and the surrounding trees are bare, suggesting winter. In the background, city buildings are visible, with one prominent skyscraper lit up. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

PREPARE THE WAY
OF THE LORD

SEASON OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

9:30am

GATHERING

Prelude

*Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.*

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace *(Please remember to fill out an attendance sheet)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Gathering Hymn: "Hark, the Glad Sound"



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem

“Awaken and Prepare Us”

Hayes/Frombach

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Children's Time

Hymn

"He Came Down"

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have joy;

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”
⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song:**"Prepare the Royal Highway"**

- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the People

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

MEAL



Offering/Ministry Opportunities/Invitation to Communion

Offering Prayer

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
**Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and
be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Blessing at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and
resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.
Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Distribution of Holy Communion



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion Song: "Prepare the Way"

We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory
Spirit of God come do it again
Miracle-working power
Moving in signs and wonders
Spirit of God come do it again

Chorus

Prepare the way He's coming
through
Ready or not our God's on the move
We're gonna see heaven on earth
Come Holy Spirit awaken Your
church

God You're just getting started
A testimony of more to come
Spirit of God come do it in us
We join in the faith of heaven
And prophesy Your kingdom here on
earth
Spirit of God come do it in us

Bridge

Fire fall wind come blow
We're ready for more ready for more
Break down the walls push back the
doors
We're ready for more (ready for
more)

Ending

We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory
Spirit of God come do it again

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

**Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Blessing

Sending 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.

Dismissal

As people of the Good Shepherd ...

We are a Christian community rooted in grace, connected through inclusive worship and fellowship.

Together

We embrace and value all people and serve our broader community with compassion.

Go in peace. Keep Awake.

Thanks be to God.

Photo Directory Update

We are off to a great start! Over 50 families have said "cheese!" so far. We added photoshoots on December 14th & 21st. We want to catch all the college kids home for the Holidays. Sign up in the foyer.

December Mission of the Month

The Midwife Project – The Giving Circle, Inc.

The Midwife Project is a healthcare initiative by The Giving Circle, Inc., a volunteer organization. Founded in 2012, the project focuses on providing healthcare in Uganda by establishing clinics, supporting medical staff, and delivering medical care in the villages of Kagoma Gate and Mutai.

Emergency Preparedness Task Force

The Health Cabinet team has been updating its emergency procedure program. We welcome volunteers to help brain-bust new ideas. Please consider joining us at our next meeting on Tuesday, December 9 at 5:30 pm.

Social Ministry News

The City Mission toy drive is in full swing! In Christmas 2024 the store served 300 families providing gifts for almost 800 children!! Thanks to Good Shepherd members we were able to donate \$406.08 to Joan Nicole Prince Home, \$336.42 to Camp Erin/Wave Riders and \$279.53 to Global Refuge this year.

Blessing Box *No glass jars during winter months

Please consider donating: canned chicken, beans, oatmeal packets, pasta sauce, canned fruit, laundry detergent, baby supplies/formula, tea/coffee, pancake supplies, shampoo/conditioner, paper towels, tooth care, dish soap.

*Today's altar flowers were donated by
Mark Anderson in loving memory of Bonnie Anderson on her birthday
and by Craig London in loving memory of Susan L. Lyons.*



Good Shepherd Cookie Walk

DECEMBER 7TH
8:30AM - 11:00AM

CONTACT NANCY WOODS
NANCE_WOODS@YAHOO.COM
OR 518 496 4368.

TODAY!

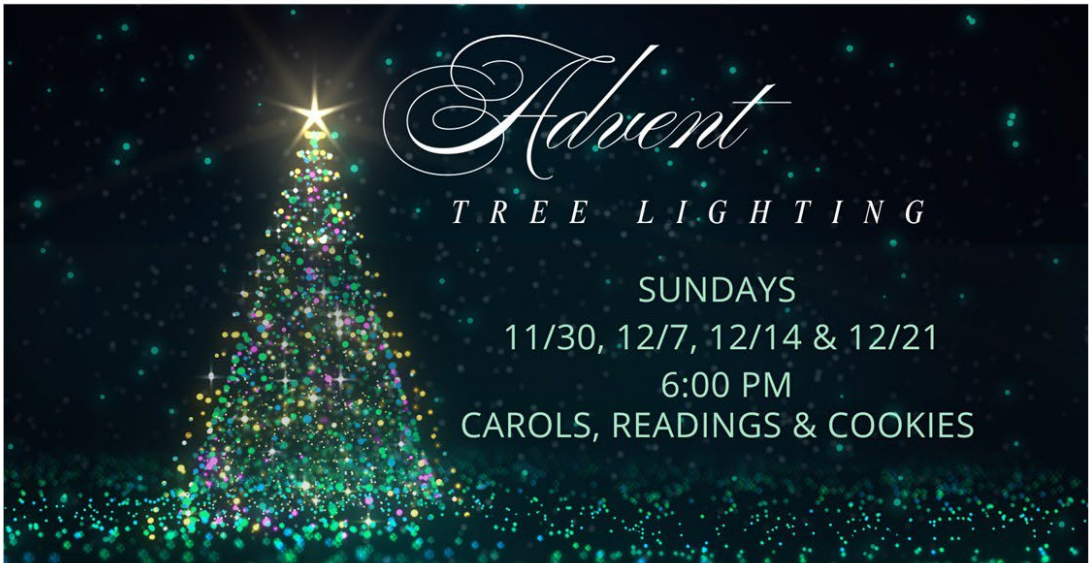


\$15 EACH

CHOICES ARE RED, WHITE OR PINK

ORDER NOW THROUGH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH



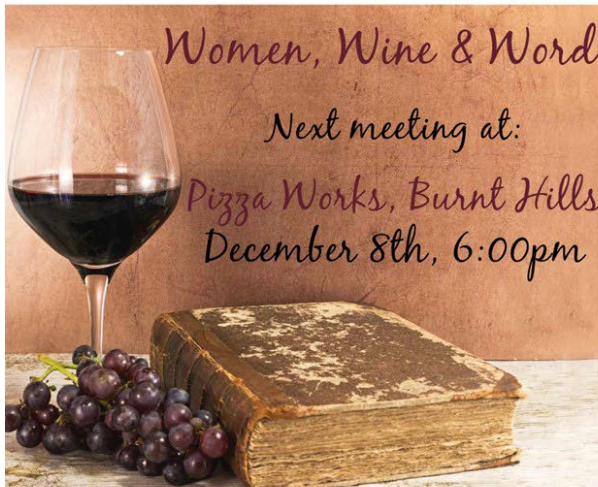
T R E E L I G H T I N G

SUNDAYS

11/30, 12/7, 12/14 & 12/21

6:00 PM

CAROLS, READINGS & COOKIES



Women, Wine & Word

Next meeting at:

Pizza Works, Burnt Hills
December 8th, 6:00pm





We join a worldwide Christmas at Sea program that collects gifts for Seafarers at the Port of Albany.
Look for the box in the Fellowship Hall - please bring in by December 14th.
We will also need shoe boxes and wrapping paper to pack.

- Something local to Albany or New York, such as an I ♥ NY trinket, a postcard, or a neat photograph you've taken
- Warm clothing: knit cap or gloves, work gloves, warm socks, sweatshirt (M, L, or XL)
- Writing paper, envelopes, pencils, pens
- Books, puzzles, word search / sudoku, playing cards
- Toiletries: razor/shaving cream/ aftershave, toothbrush/toothpaste/ floss, deodorant/fragrant soap (like Irish Spring®), brush or comb, lotion
- "AA"/"AAA" batteries
- **NO CANDY OR OTHER FOOD, PLEASE**

GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

3:30PM
FAMILY WORSHIP & CAROLS

5:00 & 7:30PM
TRADITIONAL CAROLS
WITH HOLY COMMUNION

547 SARATOGA RD GLENNVILLE, NY 12302
WWW.GSGLENNVILLE.COM



547 Saratoga Road
Glenville, NY 12302
Office: 518.399.4540
www.gsglenville.com

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