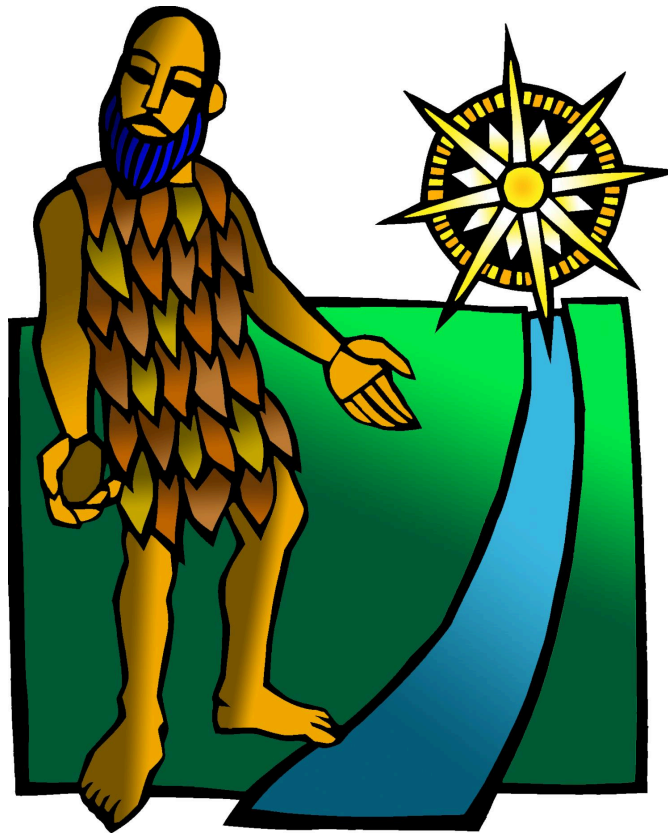


## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**DECEMBER 14TH, 2025 | 9:30AM**  
***HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING TWO***

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

### GATHERING

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

*The assembly stands as able.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

*The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly stands as they are able. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

*The presiding minister leads the blessing of the Advent wreath.*

Let us pray.

O faithful and loving God, we praise you for your tender compassion and give you thanks for your steadfast love for us and all creation. Bless us who see the light of this wreath, that we may be strengthened by the hope of your advent among us, and live toward the completion of all things in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (ELW 240) (verse 1, 2, 3)**



- 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!

*The assembly stands as able. The service continues with a gathering song*

**Gathering Song: Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Moon (ELW 242)**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## GREETING

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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

*The assistant minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

*The reading may be announced:* A reading from **Isaiah**.

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

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.]]

3 Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 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.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 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;  
7 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.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

*The reading may be concluded:* The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Luke 1:46b-55**

*The psalm for the day is spoken in unison.*

**46b My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,  
47 my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,  
48 for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:  
49 you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.  
50 You have mercy on | those who fear you,  
from generation to | generation. R  
51 You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,  
52 casting down the mighty | from their thrones  
and lifting | up the lowly.  
53 You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.**

54 You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
 to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,  
 55 the promise made | to our forebears,  
 to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. R

**Gospel Acclamation**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

*The presiding minister announces the gospel.*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4 Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

7 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? 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 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.’

11 “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.”

*The gospel concludes:* The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## APOSTLE'S CREED (ELW p. 127)

*The assembly stands as they are able. The assistant minister leads the Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. (*We pray especially for . . .*) In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**



When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant (*especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith (*especially Mary, mother of Jesus, John of the Cross and . . .*). May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)**

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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.**

#### **PREFACE (ELW p. 130)**

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:*

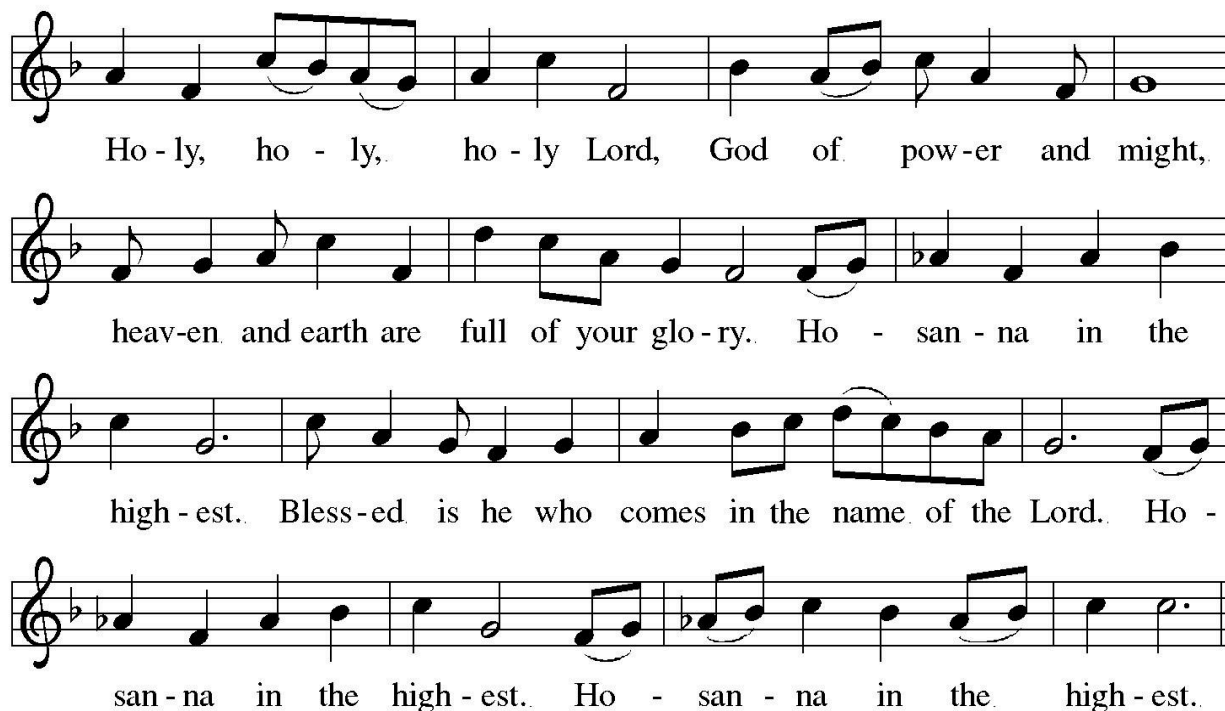
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## Sanctus "Holy, holy, holy..."



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

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.

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 (ELW P. 134)**

*The presiding minister may introduce the 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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
*The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.*

### **COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

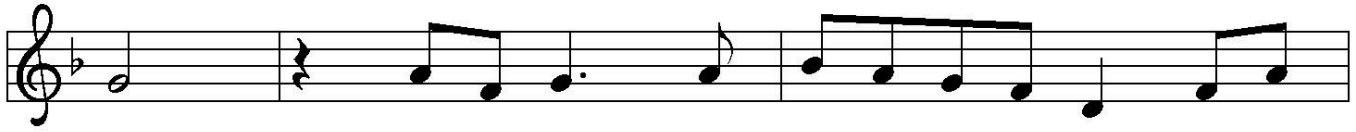
### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the communion sacrament(s).*

AGNUS DEI *"Lamb of God" may be sung.*



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

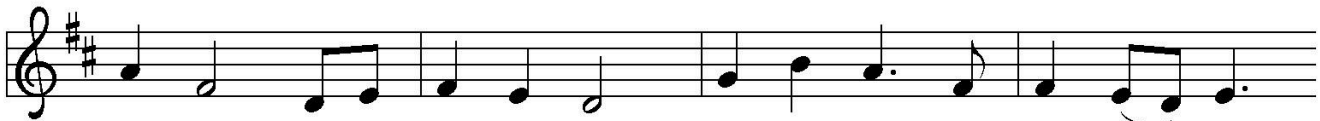


world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG: *We Come to the Hungry Feast* (ELW 479)



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

*After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthens you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The assisting minister leads a similar prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

**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**

*The assembly is seated after the prayer concludes.*

## SENDING

### BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's Blessing.*

May God who comes among us, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song: *All Earth is Hopeful / Toda La Tierra (Spanish Verse 1)*

*The assembly stands as they are able to proclaim the word of God in song.*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

## DISMISSAL

*The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## MISSION NOTES

*We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!*

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship!

Join us in welcoming the newborn Christ child! On Christmas Eve worship services will be held at 7 and 11pm, both with candlelight and carols. An anthem will be offered by the choir at 7pm and special music offered at 11pm. On Christmas Day at 10:30am, perhaps taking a pause from opening presents at home, come and join us for more rejoicing!

### CommUNITY Spaces is Growing and You May be an Integral Lead

CommUNITY Spaces continues to grow as a dynamic hub for New Paltz and the Hudson Valley, and we're excited to share that we've created new materials to help us approach local businesses about underwriting the spaces we donate, fully or in part, to groups such as the Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra, The Margaret Wade-Lewis Center for Black History and Culture, Lifetime Learning Institute, Regional AA, Resisterhood, and the LaSalle School (outpatient counseling services for children & families). As we prepare for 2026, these business partnerships will be essential in sustaining and expanding the CommUNITY Spaces ministry. Can you think of any local business owners you know, or businesses you personally support, who might align with our mission and values and who may be open to learning more about this sponsorship opportunity?

We have assembled a trifold brochure, a sponsorship opportunity program, and a cover letter for potential partners, and we would be grateful for any connections you can offer or any interest you have in sharing these materials with them - your involvement can help strengthen this ministry and support the many groups who rely on these spaces every week! Please reach out to our Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Heather Barton to share connections you may have by e-mail at [heather@redeemernewpaltz.org](mailto:heather@redeemernewpaltz.org) or by phone Monday-Thursday between 8am and 2pm at 845.255.0051.

And thank you! By God's grace and our collective efforts the ministry of CommUNITY Spaces will continue to expand and thrive for years to come.

### Greening the Sanctuary - Dec 21st

Let's decorate our Sanctuary with joy, love, laughter and singing some Christmas Carols.

### Food Justice Efforts | Family of NP requests:

Pasta sauce Tuna Peanut Butter Jam or Jelly Oatmeal Canned fruit  
Shelf stable milk Cereal Canned milk Pasta and/or Rice sides

## ONGOING

### **Sunday School - First & Third Sundays, 11-noon, Throughout the School Year**

Fun-filled and engaging Sunday school with our Episcopal and Methodist ecumenical partners. Hosted here at Redeem in the SouthEast Classroom.

### **Free Fresh Food Giveaway**

Volunteers are needed to help set up and/or stay a short time to help distribute food at our Free Fresh Food Giveaway every 2nd Sunday of the month. Contact Jackie Anderson 609 432 9622 or [dogsinn136@gmail.com](mailto:dogsinn136@gmail.com).

### **Bible Study at Redeemer w/a Meal**

**FOR DECEMBER:** 2nd & 4th  
**TIME:** 530pm - 7pm

### **Worship Incubators**

First Sunday of each month - 11-1230pm  
Mission statement: Developing Christ-centered, multi-sensory worship opportunities that give praise and glory to God.

### **Good Trouble Coffeehouse & Open Mic Night**

SCC hosted in partnership with Redeemer, New Paltz restarts Friday Oct 3rd, 7-9pm  
Then every First Friday thereafter.

### **Bonnie Crisci offers Chair Yoga**

*Chair Yoga at Redeemer New Paltz -  
Wednesdays at 1:30*

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#### **Redeemer Lutheran Church**

The Reverend Tobias V. Anderson, Pastor  
90 State Route 32 South

New Paltz, New York 12561-3912 | (845) 255-0051 | [Worship@RedeemerNewPaltz.org](mailto:Worship@RedeemerNewPaltz.org) | [RedeemerNewPaltz.org](http://RedeemerNewPaltz.org)

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