

CHRISTMAS DAY



In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The service begins with thanksgiving for baptism. As possible, we invite people to have a small glass or bowl of water ready by them, so as to mark themselves with water at the conclusion of the Thanksgiving for Baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may use water to mark their foreheads with a sign of the cross.

GATHERING SONG: *Joy To The World* (ELW 267)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

GREETING (ELW p. 138)

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.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 52:7-10

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Isaiah.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

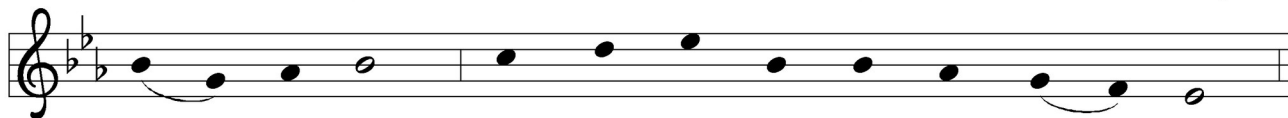
The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATION SONG: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (ELW 295)



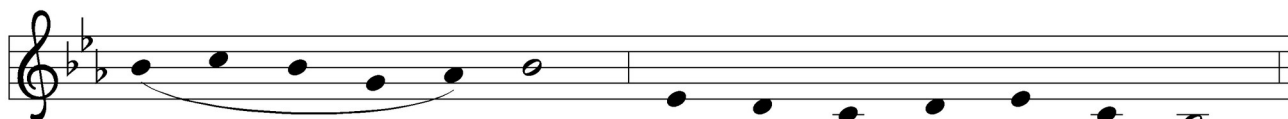
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

A reading from Titus.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)

The assembly stands as they are able to welcome the gospel.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel concludes:

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

HOMILY

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the homily.



HYMN OF THE DAY: Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

The assembly stands as they are able.

The assistant minister leads the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the intercessory prayers.

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness (*especially*).

Be especially with all those we name now: Jack (12/10/23), David G. (12/10/23), Larry and Joyce H. (12/10/23), Karl B (7/30/23), Kate S. (7/30/23), Pamela (5/28/23), Cindy (5/28/23), Jay (5/28/23), Lauren (5/28/23), Frieda L. (5/17/23), Paul S. (4/16/23), Gary M. (11/14/21), Tim R. (12/18/18), and all our family members and friends; Give them comfort, reconciliation, and hope. Be their help and their shield. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints (*especially*) who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION

The presiding minister concludes the intercessory prayers.

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. 144)

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. 144)

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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)

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.

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.

(continued on next page).

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. 145)

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 (ELW p. 146)

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister offers a blessing.

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

The assisting minister leads the following prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

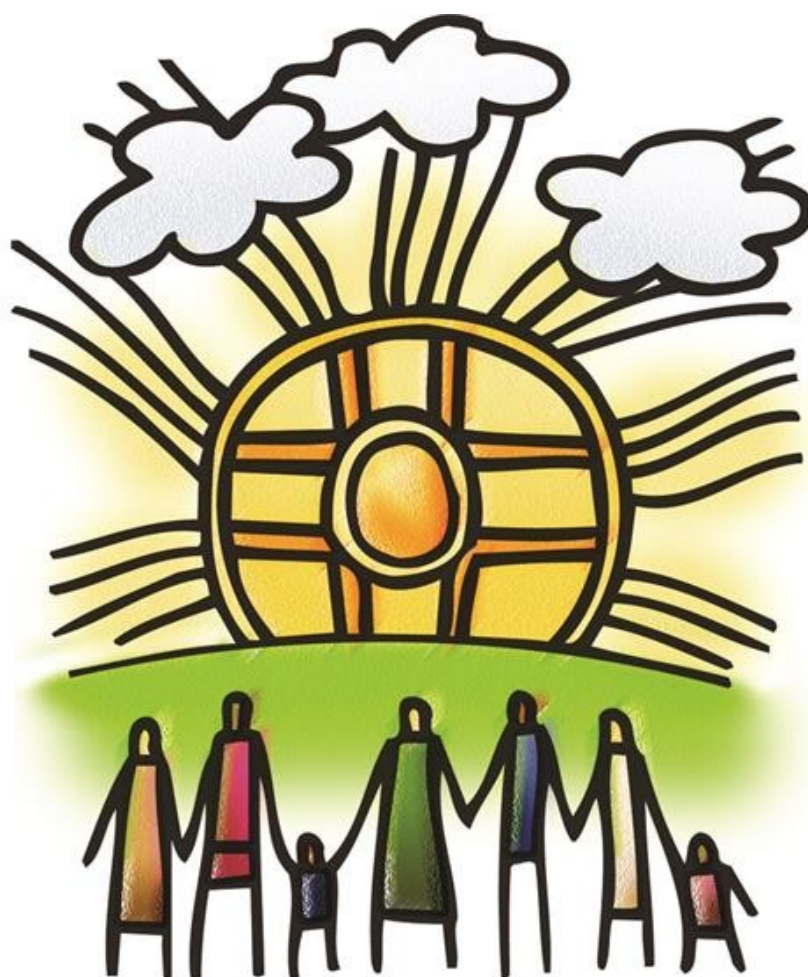
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING SONG: *The First Noel* (ELW 300)

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

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain
night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS

In Loving Memory of

All my loved ones ~ Virginia LaFalce

My parents – Ruth & Martin ~ Gwendolyn Feldt

My nephew ~ Gwendolyn Feldt

My beloved ancestors ~ Therese Paff

Jeremy ~ Patty & Rocky

Linda Upright ~ Doug & Christine Upright

Greg Upright, Ed & Edith Peplow, and Margaret & James Peplow ~ Shirley Upright

In Honor of

Jeremy ~ Patty & Rocky

In Thanksgiving to God For

Hi grace & mercy ~ Patty & Rocky

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!



Greening of the Sanctuary

Gathering to transform the Sanctuary at Redeemer, New Paltz for Christmas was an intergenerational event filled with team work and smiles, plus Christmas carols and a sumptuous pot luck feast that followed in the Community Room. Thanks again to all who made this joyous event possible as we prepared to welcome the holy Christ child!

3rd Annual Kwanzaa Celebration **December 30th, 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Join us on December 30th, from 11 am to 1 pm, to celebrate community and culture and learn about Kwanzaa with the Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis Center.

The Center, located in a historic two-story foot frame house built in 1885, is the former Ann Oliver house and is a cultural artifact of Black history in New Paltz and the only house from the historic free Black neighborhood that is being preserved by and for the Black community.

Redeemer is exceptionally pleased to offer the Center space for their incredible Kwanzaa event. We hope you join us as ambassadors to Redeemer and learn more about Kwanzaa, and to help the Margaret-Wade Lewis Center realize their dream.

For more information, please contact Pastor Tobias, tobias.song@gmail.com, or visit <https://www.mwlcenr.org/>.

RSVPs are requested. To RSVP, please visit <https://www.mwlcenr.org/events-1/3rd-annual-kwanzaa-celebration-1>.

Second Sunday Speaker Series: Mental Health

The January Second Sunday Speaker Series will focus on Mental Health, featuring a panel of local Mental Health professionals discussing this important topic. We will gather at the New Paltz United Methodist Church at 11am on Sunday, January 14th. Please see pastor Tobias or email him at tobias.song@gmail.com with questions or suggestions.

Joint Epiphany Worship: hosted at Redeemer

On Sunday, January 7th Redeemer will host a joint Episcopal-Lutheran Epiphany worship service (at the normal worship time of 9:30am), followed by Hospitality (an opportunity for building relationships with one another!) Worship will include our ecumenical Sunday School leading the congregation in singing two Christmas carols, and the choir from Redeemer singing a Christmas anthem. What a wonderful opportunity to practice being Church with a capital “C” in the world together!

Calling all Cooks-SOUP NEEDED

During winter months fresh produce for Free Fresh Food Giveaway is scarce and lean. So we supplement with homemade soup. If making soup please consider donating a portion of your soup. Please check with Jackie A for freezable containers.

The date made and ingredients must be listed on lid. Thank you so much in advance for your help feeding the cold and hungry.