

SPIRIT of GRACE

GRACE CHURCH, 820 Howard St, PO Box 596, Carthage MO 64836
417-358-4631, fax 417-358-6775
priest@gracecarthage1869.org website: gracecarthage1869.org

COFFEE HOSTS

Mark
Sponaugle,
Barbara
Mountjoy,
Zelma
Watts

DECEMBER, 2022

From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

Advent is a busy time for all of us. There's shopping, cooking, decorating, and getting prepared to spend time with friends and family. There is simply more to be done this time of year than what our calendars often allow. As we begin our journey through Advent I want to ask you to reflect on a question with me...

What are your best hopes for this Advent and Christmas season? Imagine that it's Epiphany, and you are reflecting on all that has happened up to that point...what would you have expected to happen? What is it going to take on your end for all of that to happen? Where did God come to meet you in your daily life? Where did you expect to meet Jesus?

At the very heart of Christmas is the profound truth that God comes to meet us in Jesus Christ, and in coming into our lives, saves us from sin and death by reconciling us all to God. At the heart of Advent is the expectation that the savior of the world is coming. The world is pregnant with the hopeful anticipation of his coming. So, as you consider your unrealized future I want you to consider how God is preparing you NOW to meet Jesus in the days that lie ahead.

Really expect to meet Jesus. Stay alert for the signs of God's kingdom.

Keep faith in God's presence in all situations.

At the same time expect to be surprised by the unexpectedness of the meeting.

We may discover by Epiphany that our best hopes for the season failed to come about. We will fail to do all the things we wished to have done, and yet, we will find ourselves doing things we never dreamed of doing. We may discover that everything that could go wrong did go wrong. However, if we enter this season open to God's will and movement in our lives, like Mary and Joseph, we may discover that by Epiphany God did come into our lives in the most unimaginable, unexpected, life changing ways.

After all, maybe our best hopes for this season have nothing to do with decorations or presents or even family gatherings, but instead our prayers are answered when by God's grace, love and mercy we find that God's kingdom has come among us, and God's will has been done for us, as well as in and through us.

I wish you all a very blessed season of Advent and a Happy Christmas!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jimmy Grimes, Andy Oxlaj, Sabrina Lynch, Jacqui Johnson
- 2 Henry Newport 6 Blake Ferguson
- 7 Sierra Russow
- 8 Pam Robertson, Katie Mansfield, Taylor Mansfield
- 9 Pam Williams, Ryan Robertson, Aidan Rogers, Jairo Puerto
- 10 Jennifer Cartright
- 12 Elaine Wurst, Silas Laytham
- 13 Elizabeth Speck, Hadlee Castleberry, Henry Laytham
- 15 Argo Weber 16 Andy Lynch
- 17 Janet Rogers, Alex Chesney
- 18 Ron Ross, Kevin Johnson
- 19 Jason Otero, Ana Wilkowski, Jonathan Palma
- 20 Larry McGuire, Fallon Ferguson
- 21 Alex Wilkowski, Pam Borland
- 23 Delores Beiswanger
- 25 Anna Laytham 26 Joshua Waggoner
- 27 Jeb Cook, Abby Rogers
- 28 Jacque McDonald, Gloria Gubser
- 29 Liam Rodriguez 31 Elle Salchow

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Michael & Jennifer Cartright
- 15 Jeff & Chalaine Bell, Alex & Whitley Chesney 18 Keith & Katrina Garber
- 21 Ron & Susan Ross
- 22 William & Kathleen Rhoads
- 23 Mike & Cathy Thompson
- 30 Rev Andrew & Sandy Fritsch

Vestry Update

The Vestry met on November 15. Fr. Joe reported on the proceedings from the Diocesan Convention; Ruth Hartman received the Bishop's Shield and Fr. Palma was named an honorary Dean of the Cathedral. The installation of new carpet in Spencer Hall is complete. Mark Jones has been hired to fill the position of sexton. The new interior signs are in the process of being hung to help guide visitors throughout the building. Mid-Continent Restoration has begun work on the outside of the building; they are expected to take five weeks to complete. The Stewardship campaign has received 97 pledges, which is down from last year. Holy Cow! is finishing preparation of the parish survey; it will be emailed out as soon as it is ready.

CRANBERRY BRATS

Fr. Steve Wilson's Famous Recipe

Time to order (sign-up sheet)

Uncooked, frozen in 1 lb. pkgs,

\$8 per pound, 5 in pkg.

Pick up begins, Fri, Dec 2, at the Olde World Market

New or visiting Grace for the first time? Scan the QR code below with you phone to tell us more



The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Louise Barton, Johnna Collins, Tom Huntley, Mary Lambert, JoAnn Pritchard, Amy Spidel

Oak Pointe: Nancy Frerer, Richard Goolsby, Lida McCulloch

Wildwood: Helen Moss

Moberly: Eric Adams

OKC: Kay Graham

Lockwood: Edith Walters

College View: Carolyn Johnson, Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

Parishioners: Chesney Family, Gary Cole, Keith Garber, Lynette Gass, Marilyn Kelley, Frank Lane, Rick Olson, Sam Platt, Susan Ross, Karen Rouse, Hans Ytell

Current: Jodi Barnt, Alyson Brown, Tom Brown, Sue Butler, Janet Chambers, Pat Chambers, Heather Dabney, Emily Jenkins, Bob Karraker, Terry Michael, SuAnn Newport, Sue Noah, Ginia Oehlschlager, Bryan O'Moore, Lara Smith, Joyce Spencer, Brenda Weir, Ellen Wolf, Julie Yockey, Jim

Prefer to give online?

You can make donations or pledge payments from your checking account via PayPal or with any major credit or debit card. Please note that the donation will be directed to The Diocese of West Missouri's account, but they will absorb all the processing costs and forward your full donation to us. **Don't forget to fill out the "optional Write a Note" to tell us what you would like it to go towards!**



The FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Jerry Gilpin, Nov 5

ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

4 Susie Bewick

11 Shary Lee & Roger & Mary Kirby

18 Amy & Jimmy Grimes

25—Jan 2 Poinsettias

SAVE the DATE

Women's Retreat

Jan 21,. 9-5

PLEDGE CARDS

Have you mailed in your pledge card?

If not, please do so immediately.

You can mail it in the provided envelope, put it in the offering plate, or bring to the church personally.

This card is needed, so the budget can be formulated.

CHRISTMAS FLOAT

It's that time of year again to start working on the Grace Christmas float! Parade is Monday, December 5th at 7:00pm! If interested in helping build or being a part of the parade please contact Fr. Joe or Austin Rhymer!

La Navidad: Celebración del Nacimiento de Jesús.

“Porque un niño nos es nacido, hijo nos es dado, y el principado sobre su hombro, y se llamará su nombre Admirable, Consejero, Dios fuerte, Padre eterno, Príncipe de paz”. Isaías 9: 6.

¿POR QUÉ CELEBRAMOS LA NAVIDAD?

Navidad viene de “natividad”, significa nacimiento de Jesús.

Para los creyentes en Jesús, la navidad es el tiempo para honrar (reconocer), agasajar y agradecer a Jesús por ser nuestro EMANUEL, Dios con nosotros, por amar a toda la humanidad, por salvarnos y porque ha cambiado nuestras vidas. Jesús promete: “...Yo he venido para que tengan vida, y para que la tengan en abundancia”. Juan 10:10

¿POR QUÉ ES UN TIEMPO DE TANTA ALEGRÍA PARA EL MUNDO CRISTIANO?

Porque el ángel que anunció el nacimiento de Jesús a unos pastores de Belén, lo profetizó:

*“...No temáis; porque he aquí que os doy nuevas de **gran gozo**, que será para todo el pueblo; que os ha nacido hoy en la ciudad de David, un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor...” Lucas 2: 10-14.*

La palabra “Evangelio” significa buenas nuevas.

¿VIVIÓ REALMENTE JESÚS O ES TAN SOLO UN MITO?

Nuestras principales fuentes de información sobre Jesús son cuatro relatos escritos, que conocemos con el nombre de Evangelios. El valor de tener cuatro relatos diferentes es que se confirman unos a otros en un retrato global de la vida de Jesús.

Además de los Evangelios, otros autores de la época hacen referencia a Jesús, dos de ellos, que escribieron en el mismo siglo en el que nació Jesús, son especialmente interesantes:

Flavio Josefo fue probablemente el historiador judío más grande de su tiempo, y era ciertamente poco amigo de la floreciente fe cristiana. En su libro: “Las antigüedades de los judíos”, registra la siguiente información sobre Jesús: “En aquellos tiempos había un hombre sabio llamado Jesús, su comportamiento era bueno y se le conocía como hombre de virtud. Y mucha gente entre los judíos y de otras naciones se hicieron sus discípulos. Pilatos le condenó a ser crucificado y morir. Aquellos que se hicieron sus discípulos no abandonaron su discipulado, informaron que se les había aparecido tres días después de la crucifixión y que estaba vivo”. Este relato está básicamente de acuerdo con el que narran los cuatro Evangelios.

El historiador romano Cornelio Tácito, en uno de sus primeros escritos, habla de la ejecución de Jesús por orden de Poncio Pilatos.

¿POR QUÉ JESÚS ES SINGULAR, ÚNICO, SIN IGUAL NI SEMEJANTE?

Su vida fue totalmente profetizada. Su nacimiento fue único y sobrenatural.

Su niñez fue especial y sin paralelo. Sus enseñanzas son revolucionarias, cambian vidas. Sus milagros han sido y siguen siendo extraordinarios y sobrenaturales. Su muerte fue revolucionaria y un acto de sacrificio. La resurrección de Cristo fue milagrosa. Lo que Jesucristo dijo de sí mismo fue único y sin precedentes.

La influencia de Jesús sobre personas, pueblos y naciones ha sido y sigue siendo única y singular. Pidamos a Dios que en estas fechas recordemos con alegría que Dios envió a su Hijo para salvar a toda la humanidad y que compartamos con nuestro seres queridos y amigos esta ¡gran noticia!

What do mathematicians, opticians, metalworkers, and hunters share in common? Well, a patron saint to be sure. Saint Hubert is the patron saint of all four of the previously listed vocations. Hubert was the first bishop of Liege in Belgium. He lived between 656 and 727. Hubert was widowed as his wife gave birth to their son Floribert, and out of grief he retreated to the Ardennes Forest and took to spending all of his time hunting, likely as a living. As the legend goes, it was one Good Friday morning that while everyone else was in church for the ancient holy week liturgy Hubert was out hunting. **As he was** hunting he came across this beautiful stag and after some time spent pursuing the animal, it turned, and between its great antlers Hubert saw a vision of the cross. Hubert then heard a voice tell him to give up his unholy life and lead a new holy one. Immediately Hubert lowered himself to the forest floor and obeyed. That's basic structure of the various legends that surround the great encounter of Hubert. But perhaps the spotlight should really just be given to the moral of the story. Do not be so focused on the desires of your heart that provide temporary relief from the suffering in our lives or as a sole means of joy and happiness for the true source of all happiness and healing is God. Enjoy the sporting pursuits and hobbies and trades of our world but not the extent that we forget to give thanks for whom all our blessings truly come from. This Advent and Christmas season I urge you to be like Hubert and see where perhaps God might be calling you to live a different life in this world. A life that might seek to renew old friendships and relationships out of peace and love. After all, the reason for the season is the birth of the prince of peace. May this Advent and Christmas season be a time of giving thanks and learning how to live into the life of holiness our baptisms have born us into.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Meet some of the folks running for the next Vestry class! Mark Jones and Lisa Daugherty's bio can be found on the bottom of page 7. Current nominees not listed here are Andy Lynch, Jeanie Slates, Elaine Wurst, Mike Robertson, and Glenda Erwin. Voting will take place at the Parish Annual Meeting on January 14th.



My name is **Ben Blair** and would like the opportunity to serve on the vestry. My family and I have attended Grace Episcopal since April of 2021. We attend the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings and can often be found near the back so our children, Charlie (7) and Rory (4), aren't too distracting to the rest of the congregation. We were drawn to Grace for several reasons. First, it is important that the community we are part of is welcoming and accepting of all people along their journey of faith and service. Additionally, the inclusion and support of women and LGBTQ+ individuals in leadership is paramount to our family values. Finally, we believe faith communities should be invested in their geographical community. The congregation at Grace has welcomed us with love and we appreciate how community-centered the church is. We have witnessed how Grace exists to love God and serve the community and we have enjoyed being part of that. The opportunity to serve on the vestry would be a meaningful way to use my professional experience and expertise to serve Grace Episcopal Church and protect the stated vision of the parish.



Ashley Rouse

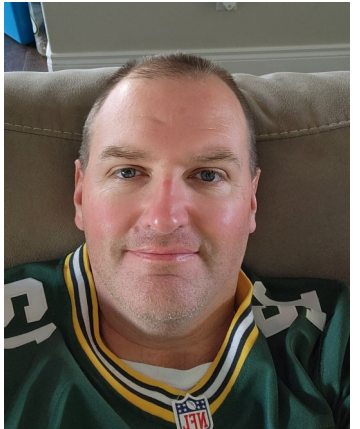
I was confirmed in the church in 2019. My parents (Norman and Karen) and I hold down the 7th pew back on the left side of the 8:00am service when we are not at the lake. I like the reverence and quiet of the service combined with the warmth and fellowship of coffee hour and events. Grace Episcopal is a powerful force for good and I want to be a larger part of that mission. I have a degree in communication and have taken graduate classes in mediation and conflict resolution which center on listening skills. This knowledge gives me a unique and useful perspective in leadership.

msashleyrouse@gmail.com



Sandy Swingle, I have been a member of Grace Church since 2001. I attend the Sunday morning 10:30 service. Here at Grace the people are warm and friendly and mean so much to me. I want to represent the church members by making myself available to them, take an interest in how money is spent and the maintenance of our building.

sandra.swinlge@att.net



My name is **William Stremke** and I have attended Grace Church since meeting my wife in 2010. We attend the 10:30 service. Grace has been a second home for our entire family through the good times and the bad. I feel that by serving on the vestry I could continue to grow the family-oriented ministry of our church to the Jasper County community.

williamstremkeiv@yahoo.com⁶

TEA & THEE LADIES

FELLOWSHIP:

Every Wed, 10 am

BIBLE STUDY:

Every Thurs, 11 am

In-person or via Zoom (link sent weekly to email list)

FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP:

Every Thurs, 3 pm

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP

1st & 3rd Sat, in Dec, 9 am

Men of the parish are invited to join in the fellowship and activities.

VESTRY

3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm

CAREGIVERS TOGETHER

4th Tuesday, 3 pm

FOLDING NEWSLETTER

Tues, Dec 28, 3 pm

SAINT & FEAST DAYS

Nicholas of Myra Dec 6

St Thomas Dec 21

Holy Innocents Dec 28

**NO Saturday Services on Dec 10
and Dec 17 Office Closed Dec 27**

DECEMBER EVENTS

2-3 Olde World Market-Fri Gala, 5:30—7:30 pm, \$10 at the door Saturday, Free Admission, 9 am—3 pm

7 Eucharist 6 pm with Party to follow, Special Guest: St Nick

10 Lessons and Carols, 5 pm 11 Guadalupe Celebration 5 pm

16 Posada, 6 pm, Bring Dessert. Only one Posada this year

21 Eucharist, 6 pm, NO Activities 24 Christmas Eve Services 4 pm, 10

pm & 7 pm Espanol 25 Christmas, 10 am Eucharist; Noon Espanol

VESTRY NOMINATIONS



Lisa Daugherty. I started attending again back in 2017. I first attended with my parents in 1979 and was married here by Father McHenry in 1983 but had a brief pause from attending Grace Church until present. I attend Sunday 10:30 service with my 2 service dogs Wednesday, Jackson and my father when he is in town. I like the casual and friendliness of the people that attend. I would like to see an increase of numbers of youth (because that is the future of this church) and a fundraiser for the youth trip next year with the ideal Father Steve had to raise money to shave Father Joe's beard and of course let's not leave out Father Col-lin. lmoviemouse@gmail.com



Mark Jones. I have been attending Grace about 30 yrs. I really like the atmosphere, the family feel at Grace. I usually attend Sunday 10:30 a.m. service; lately I have attended the Friday also. I attend the two services because I enjoy the difference of Liturgies of Rite 1 and Rite 2. The church has some exciting changes coming and I would like to be a part of that.

My e-mail is manandua3@gmail.com

MINISTERS of WORSHIP: DECEMBER

Fri, Dec 2: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 3: 9 am

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

II ADVENT

Sun, Dec 4: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers/Chalice: Dean Dankelson

Server:

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy

NT/Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Mentor: Shawnda Eley

Server: Tyrese Hill

Cross: Aliyah Hill

Torches: Lincoln & Barrett Cook

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

AV: Elisa White

Ushers: Austin & Jennifer Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Ann Ulmer &

Pat Brown

Wed, Dec 7: 6 pm

Reader: Regina Newport

Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

Fri, Dec 9: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 10: 9 am

Sacristan: Elisa White

5 pm

NO SERVICE

III ADVENT

Sun, Dec 11: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Chalice/Server: Bill Putnam

Prayers: Karen Rouse

Sacristan: Elisa White

10:30 am

OT: Paige Rhymer

NT/Chalice: Jory Mertens

Prayers/Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Mentor: Kirby Newport

Cross: Allie Rhymer

Server: Olivia Pierce

Torches: Brooklyn Rhymer & Alana Harris

Sacristan: Elisa White

AV: Jennifer Rhymer

Ushers: Max Hill & Steve Erwin

Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts &

Julie Anderson

Wed, Dec 14: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Elisa White

Fri, Dec 16: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 17: 9 am

Sacristan: Becky Edds

5 pm

NO SERVICE

IV ADVENT

Sun, Dec 18: 8 am

Reader: Nancy Dymott

Prayers: Jacqui Johnson

Chalice: Dean Dankelson

Server:

Sacristan: Becky Edds

IV ADVENT

10:30 am

OT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman
NT: Regina Newport
Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman
Mentor: Elisa White
Servers: A J Rhymer
Cross: Connor Wilkowski
Torches: Barrett & Lincoln Cook
Ushers: Chris Orr & Tom Flanigan
Sacristan: Becky Edds
AV: Jim Wakefield
Flower Delivery: Beth Kang

Wed, Dec 21: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens
Sacristan: Becky Edds

Fri, Dec 23, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 24: 9 am

Sacristan: Connie Leek

CHRISTMAS EVE, 4 pm

OT: Ashley Rouse
NT/Chalice: Andy Lynch
Prayers/Chalice: Michael Goolsby
Mentor: Melissa Stremke
Server: Tristan Lynch
Cross: Trenton Lynch
Torch: Peyton Lynch, Carson Stremke
Ushers: Allie & Brooklyn Rhymer
Sacristan: Connie Leek

CHRISTMAS EVE, Dec 24, 10 pm

OT: Jacqui Johnson
NT: Glenda Erwin
Chalice: Austin Rhymer
Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle
Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer
Server: AJ Rhymer
Cross: Paige Rhymer
Torch: Brooklyn & Allie Rhymer
Ushers: Larry & Ruth Hartman
Sacristan: Connie Leek/Becky Edds
AV: Jim Wakefield

NATIVITY of OUR LORD

Sun, Dec 25: 10 am

OT: Brian Jones
NT: Shirley Gollhofer
Chalice:
Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle
Server:
Cross: Mark Sponaugle
Torch:
Ushers: Steve Erwin & Max Hill
Sacristan: Connie Leek
AV: Mike Robertson & Brooklyn Rhymer
Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby

Wed, Dec 28: 6 pm

Reader: AJ Rhymer
Chalice: Austin Rhymer
Sacristan: Connie Leek

Fri, Dec 30: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 31: 5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam
Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

DAILY READINGS in DECEMBER 2022

Thurs, Dec 1: *Isaiah 2:12-22, I Thessalonians 3:1-13, Luke 20:27-40*

Fri, Dec 2: *Isaiah 3:8-15, I Thessalonians 4:1-12, Luke 20:41—21:4*

Sat, Dec 3: *Isaiah 4:2-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 21:5-19*

II ADVENT, Sun, Dec 4: *Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12*

Mon, Dec 5: *Isaiah 5:8-12, 18-23, I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Luke 21:20-28*

Tues, Dec 6: *Isaiah 5:13-17, 24-25, I Thessalonians 5:12-28, Luke 21:29-38*

Wed, Dec 7: *Isaiah 6:1-13, II Thessalonians 1:1-12, John 7:53—8:11*

Thurs, Dec 8: *Isaiah 7:1-9, II Thessalonians 2:1-12, Luke 22:1-13*

Fri, Dec 9: *Isaiah 7:10-25, II Thessalonians 2:13—3:5, Luke 22:14-30*

Sat, Dec 10: *Isaiah 8:1-15, II Thessalonians 3:6-18, Luke 22:31-38*

III ADVENT, Sun, Dec 11: *Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11*

Mon, Dec 12: *Isaiah 8:16—9:1, II Peter 1:1-11, Luke 22:39-53*

Tues, Dec 13: *Isaiah 9:1-7, II Peter 1:12-21, Luke 22:54-69*

Wed, Dec 14: *Isaiah 9:8-17, II Peter 2:1-10a, Mark 1:1-8*

Thurs, Dec 15: *Isaiah 9:18—10:4, II Peter 2:10b-16, Matthew 3:1-12*

Fri, Dec 16: *Isaiah 10:5-19, II Peter 2:17-22, Matthew 11:2-15*

Sat, Dec 17: *Isaiah 10:20-27, Jude 17-25, Luke 3:1-9*

IV ADVENT, Sun, Dec 18: *Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25*

Mon, Dec 19: *Isaiah 11:1-9, Revelation 20:1-10, John 5:30-47*

Tues, Dec 20: *Isaiah 11:10-16, Revelation 20:11—21:8, Luke 1:5-25*

Wed, Dec 21: *Habakkuk 2:1-4, Hebrews 10:35—11:1, John 20:24-29*

Thurs, Dec 22: *Isaiah 29:13-24, Revelation 21:22—22:5, Luke 1:39-56*

Fri, Dec 23: *Isaiah 33:17-22, Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20, Luke 1:57-66*

Sat, Dec 24: *Isaiah 35:1-10, Revelation 22:12-17, 21, Luke 1:67-80*

The NATIVITY of OUR LORD, Sun, Dec 25: *Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20*

Mon, Dec 26: *Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15, Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51c-60, Matthew 23:34-39*

Tues, Dec 27: *Exodus 33:18-23, I John 1:1-9, John 21:19b-24*

Wed, Dec 28: *Jeremiah 31:15-17, Revelation 21:1-7, Matthew 2:13-18*

Thurs, Dec 29: *Isaiah 12:1-6, Revelation 1:1-8, John 7:37-52*

Fri, Dec 30: *Isaiah 25:1-9, Revelation 1:9-20, John 7:53—8:11*

Sat, Dec 31: *Isaiah 26:1-9, II Corinthians 5:16—6:2, John 8:12-19*

