

# ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN ESSEX FELLS

A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK

271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07102

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## The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

### Welcome

We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. We are a church rooted in Christian tradition, and open to new ideas, committed to service in community and world as part of the world-wide Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The work of worship is shared by all, and we invite you to participate in the said and spoken responses as you are able.

All are welcome to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code with your capable electronic device. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.



### Holy Eucharist at 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock, All Saints' Chapel

*The service begins in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), page 351*

*The Lessons may be found in the 10 o'clock portion of this worship bulletin (below)*

*Canticle 15, 'Magnificat' may be found on page 2 of this worship bulletin (below)*

*The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B, may be found on page 367 of the BCP*

### Holy Eucharist at 10 o'clock, Church

Voluntary *Fuga sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733*

J.S. Bach (attr.)

Entrance Hymn 57 *Hymnal 1982*

HELMSLEY

*As the Advent wreath is lit, the Choir sings*

Introit *Rorate cali desuper*

Tone VII

*Drop down, heavens above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:*

*Let the earth open and bring forth a Savior*

*The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament shows his handiwork.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

—Isaiah 45:8; Psalm 19

THE WORD OF GOD

A Penitential Order

*BCP, page 351*

*Kyrie*

Collect of the Day

*Hymnal 1982, S-88  
Advent 4, BCP, page 212*

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* 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 LESSONS

First Reading

*Micah 5:2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle *Magnificat*

*Tonus Peregrinus*

*Spoken at 8 am and 4 pm  
Sung by the Choir at 10 am*

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.
- 4 He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
- 5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.
- 7 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Reading

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hymn 673 *Hymnal 1982*

BALLAD

Gospel Reading

*Luke 1:39-45*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

*The Rector*

Nicene Creed

*BCP, page 358*

Prayers of the People

*Intercessor* We sing the praises of the Lord,

*People* **For the Lord has done great things.**

*The prayer concludes: "...the living God through Christ our Lord."*

*People To you, O Lord our God.*

The Peace

*BCP, page 360*

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

*L. Stanley Glarum*

*I saw a stranger yest'reen,  
I put food in the eating place,  
I put drink in the drinking place,  
There was music in the listening place,  
And in the sacred name of the Triune  
He blessed myself and my house,  
My cattle and my dear ones.  
And the lark said in her song:  
'Often, often, often goes the Christ  
In the stranger's guise.'*

*—Old Gaelic Rune*

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

*BCP, page 367*

*Sanctus*

*Hymnal 1982, S-130*

Lord's Prayer

*BCP, page 364*

*Fraction Anthem*

*Hymnal 1982, S-154*

Invitation

*Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.*

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Bread and Cup to be in communion with God and each other. You may receive only the bread by placing your hands together flat in front of you (Gluten-free wafers are available upon request). Afterwards you may drink wine from the chalice. If you would rather have the bread intincted (dipped) in the wine, you may hand the bread to the person administering the chalice and they will intinct and hand it back to you. If you (or your child) would rather not receive the Sacrament, you may come to the altar rail during Communion and cross your arms on your chest for a blessing.*

Communion Anthem

*J.S. Bach*

*Bereite dich, Zion, mit zärtlichen Trieben,  
Den Schönsten, den Liebsten bald bei dir zu sehn!  
Deine Wangen müssen heut viel schöner prangen,  
eile, den Bräutigam sehnlichst zu lieben!  
[Prepare yourself, Zion, with tender efforts,  
to behold your lovely one, your beloved, near you soon!]*

*Your cheeks must now glow much more radiantly,  
hurry to love the Bridegroom with passion!]*

—Christian Friedrich Henrici (*ascr.*); *tr. composite*

Postcommunion Prayer

*Please stand and say together*

**ALL** Grant, we pray, almighty God: that as the coming festival of our redemption draws near that we, who have received this pledge of eternal salvation, may increase in faith, hope, and love: and that we may worthily celebrate the mystery of the birth of your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 59 *Hymnal 1982*

MERTON

Blessing and Dismissal

*People* Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary and Procession

### *This Week's Parish Notices*

#### STEWARDSHIP 2025

This year's theme is *Walk in Love*, taken from the Letter to the Ephesians: "Walk in love as Christ has loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:2). Make your pledge online at <https://stpetersef.org/donate/pledge-form>. Contact a member of the Vestry or Father Nate to find out more about how you can *Walk in Love* at St. Peter's.

#### CALENDARS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Thanks to the generosity of the Shook-Farmer Funeral Home, 2025 Episcopal Calendars are available. Please take one home—they are available in the narthex of the church and on the back table of All Saints' Chapel.

#### THANK YOU, CHOIRS!

Many thanks to our Parish Choir and Handbell Choir for a beautiful Lessons and Carols service last Sunday. Thanks also to all our readers, and thanks to Mary Shearin for organizing the reception following.

#### ALTAR GUILD THANKS

The Altar Guild would like to extend a big thank you to Margot Dockrell for making and donating new bows for the candalabras and wreaths. The bright red helps to make the church look brighter and more festive.

#### ST. PETER'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Parish will be Sunday, January 19, following the 10 am service. We will vote for six Vestry positions: one for warden, two for two-year terms; three for three-year terms; three delegates to Diocesan Convention; three alternates to Diocesan Convention. Candidates must be a

baptized member of the Episcopal Church who has been a member of St. Peter's in good standing for at least one year, is at least 16 years old, makes a regular financial contribution to the parish, and worships regularly at St. Peter's. Childcare will be available during the meeting. Annual Reports are due January 13, 2025; please send to [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org).

#### THE NEXT BAPTISMAL FEAST

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: the Baptism of Our Lord will be celebrated on January 12, 2025. This is one of the four principal Baptismal feasts in the Church Year. If you desire the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please reach out to the Parish Office ([info@stpeters.org](mailto:info@stpeters.org)).

#### A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION—ALTAR GUILD WELCOMES YOU!

Looking for a way to serve St. Peter's that is do-able and rewarding and doesn't take a lot of time? How about considering Altar Guild? Altar Guild is a quiet ministry of the church, but this quiet ministry offers a big contribution. Consider this:

- Membership in Altar Guild offers flexibility in time commitment;
- Membership in Altar Guild can be done as a couple or even a family;
- Membership in Altar Guild is an avenue to introduce people to stewardship at St. Peter's;
- Membership in Altar Guild can be your introduction to church ministry.

For more information, contact Alice Samuels ([inkyretired@aol.com](mailto:inkyretired@aol.com)) or Karen Mosher ([looker-mosher@msn.com](mailto:looker-mosher@msn.com)), or the Parish Office at [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org).

#### USHERS

Grow our St. Peter's community—join the ministry of ushers! This work is important as we are the first impression people have as they arrive at Church. Schedules are flexible and made a month in advance. Contact Wayne Copeland ([waynecopeland@keyconsult.com](mailto:waynecopeland@keyconsult.com)).

#### MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

<i>Altar Guild</i>	Nancy Connor, Karen Mosher, Alice Samuels
<i>Ushers</i>	Barbara Lopez
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kayla and Alexis Felix
<i>Readers</i>	Valerie Felix
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	TBA
<i>Cantors</i>	Michael Barretti, Giulia Utz
<i>Director of Music</i>	Mark A. Trautman
<i>Presiding</i>	The Reverend Nathaniel Darville

#### PRAYER LIST

Laurie Alcott, Stanley Au, Amye Becker, Duffy Bell, Grace Bishop, Nancy Bivona, Murriel Bowness, Kathy Calfe, Martha Capel, Adele Corcoran, Gabriel Cowell, Mark Cowell, Robin Delehanty, Wayne Hill, Bunny Jenkins, Tania Jenkins, Sheila & Norman Johnson, Eddie K., Jeffrey Kamel, Katherine Kamen, Ed Kamper, Colin Kelley, Katie King, Lauren L., Laurieann, Sally L., Mark Lewis, Marino Family, Tom Marriott, Mike, Nicholas Nunno, Lisa & Gary Pyne, Richardson & Dickhaus families, Craig Roper, Ruth Ann, Sarah, Jean Whiting Smith, Kathy Stanton, Marge Vere, Frank Zupa.

*THERE IS STILL TIME TO MAKE YOUR GIFT!*



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS  
CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Poinsettias and special music adorn our worship every Christmas. If you wish to write a check, please mark “Poinsettias” or “Music” (or both) in the memo line. Please let the Parish Office know if you are giving your gift in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones, and clearly print or type each name or intention. Send names to [info@stpetersef.org](mailto:info@stpetersef.org) or send via regular mail to the Parish Office. Please make sure to deliver your gift and names to the Parish Office by tomorrow.

Poinsettias, greens, and special music are cherished traditions at St. Peter’s and remind us of the joy of the birth of Jesus. Gifts to the Music Fund will fund a string quartet for the late Christmas eve service. Thank you for your generosity!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle one: Poinsettias Music Both*

In memory of/in thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

December 24, Nativity Pageant and Eucharist, 4 pm

December 24, Festal Choral Eucharist at 10 pm

December 25, Christmas Day Eucharist at 10 am

December 29, First Sunday after Christmas, 10 am (*only one service this day*)

January 5, 2025, Second Sunday after Christmas, 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm



THE VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH  
Mary Shearin and Wayne Copeland, *Wardens*  
Valerie Felix, Jim Irwin, Christine Albano, Eloise Monzillo Hiris,  
David Cowell, Kurt Vonderahe, *Vestry Members*

STAFF

The Rev. Nathaniel K.M. Darville, *Rector*  
*darville@stpetersef.org*  
Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music and Administrator*  
*trautman@stpetersef.org*  
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