



Advent – Christmas – Epiphany 2024-25 *Together on the Journey*

You are our home: Emmanuel, God-with-us everywhere.

“How Many Times We Start Again”

#553 Voices Together

This Advent season, the biblical characters invite us to travel “together on the journey”. We are stronger when we walk together. These scripture stories have much to teach us as we prepare to welcome Christ anew into our hearts and our lives. We begin with persistently walking with God, and being open to the guidance of God’s Spirit. Then the theme extends to including the marginalized, adding the support of others, all those who help us see what God is doing, and the gift of mentors who guide us along the way.

Each of our journeys in faith is unique and meant to be lived in community. Together, let’s join with one another as we travel the path that draws us closer to God.

An Advent theme hymn “How Many Times We Start Again” speaks to us of hope and hesitation. Yet despite uncertainties, we choose to answer God’s call with earnest faith and open hearts.

Join in naming the challenges we face on the journey and embracing the divine mystery and holy surprises we encounter on our way. Come to worship with Advent candle lighting, music, children’s story, scripture, prayer, sermons, and **Advent pre-worship singing from 9:35-9:45 am**. An Advent calendar for children, families, for all will be available for use at home.

December 1 – ADVENT 1 **Between a Rock and a Hard Place**

How Do We Continue On?

Daniel 6:6-27; Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36 Our path may meander through rocky situations, and we will hold Christ as our center as we journey together.

Brass Quartet

December 8 – ADVENT 2 **Opening Hearts**

What Do We Ask For?

Joel 2:12-13, 28-29; Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, the love of God.

BMC Band

December 15 – ADVENT 3 **Anointing for Justice**

Who Belongs?

Isaiah 12:2-6; 61:1-11; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
May we extend Christ’s love, peace, and justice, inviting all to become woven into our communities.

BMC Jr Sunday School leads worship

Inter-generational Sunday school

December 21 – **The Longest Night**

Isaiah 40:1, 6-8; Matthew 11:28

Let the light of your Holy Spirit shine like candles in the darkness, a light that darkness cannot overcome, lighting the way for all who feel despairing, lost, or forgotten. May light and love come to dwell deeply in our hearts; and may it shine on, for us and for those we meet along the way. Amen.

December 22 – ADVENT 4 **Embodying God’s Spirit**

Who Lends a Hand?

Psalm 80:1-7; Psalm 113; Micah 5:2-5; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:26-49

With Christ as our center, we are together on the journey.

December 24 – **Christmas Eve 7:00 pm**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

BMC Christmas Eve Choir, Scripture, Children’s Story, Congregational Singing, Candle Lighting

Christmas Eve Offering supports House of Friendship



December 29 – **Keeping Promises**

Who Sees It?

Psalm 148; I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:21-38

Join us on this journey, as we live out the Good News of Christ!

January 5, 2025 – **Epiphany Nurturing Faith**

From Whom Do We Learn?

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12;

Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:41-52

May we grow in faith and wisdom, with roots that provide grounding and branches from life-long learning.



How many times we start again on faith’s unwinding way...

***In you we live and move and dwell, as close as breath and prayer,
you are our home: Emmanuel, God-with-us everywhere.***

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