

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 1, 2024 at 8:45am & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE ● *People, Look East!*

Dale Wood (1934–2003)

WELCOME

GATHERING LITANY

We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear. We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.

We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes. We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so we can be still and rest.

We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth. We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.

We live in a world that is broken and hurting. We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people.

God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven togheter, that we will be healed and made whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us togheter in the shelter of your righteousness. **Amen.**



GREETING

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING • Jeremiah 33:14-16

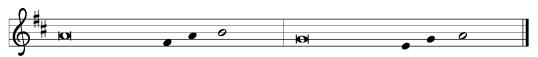
In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—
"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER ● Psalm 25:1-10



Chant: Tone One

- ¹ To | you, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.
- My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- Let none who look to you be | put to shame; rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴ Show me your | ways, O Lord, and teach | me your paths.
- Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶ Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love, for they are from | everlasting.
- Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.



- ⁸ You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
- You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.
- All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

SECOND READING • 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them.

In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy,

and blessings for the people of this growing church.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



All: Alleluia.

Choir: Stand up and | raise your heads.*

your redemption is | drawing near.

All: Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING ● Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Miller

Please stand as you are able.



Continued on the next page



The 8:45 am service continues with the Apostle's Creed, on page 11.

(11:15) THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

In baptism God frees us from sin and death by uniting us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and we are commissioned for Christ's ministry of justice and peace.

PRESENTATION

As you present Michelle Aurora for baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities. You should therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a Godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Parents, do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

Parent's Response: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Michelle Aurora and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

Response: We do.

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL

I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? 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.

BAPTISM

Michelle Aurora, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Blessed be God the source of all life.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, wash them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Michelle Aurora with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

Michelle Aurora, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF A BAPTISM CANDLE

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

WELCOME

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ, and the mission we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The service continues with the Peace, on page 11.

(8:45) APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

(8:45) PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of hope,

receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Saviour of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the please of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at <u>saintlukegive.us</u> You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910

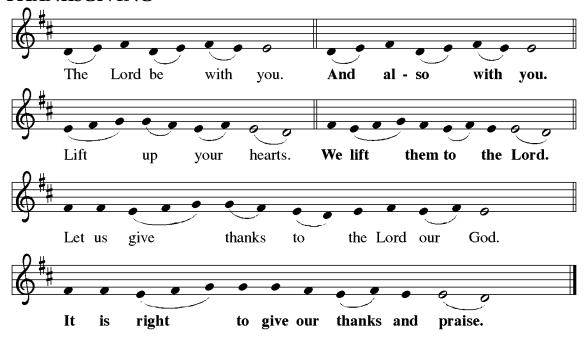
OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

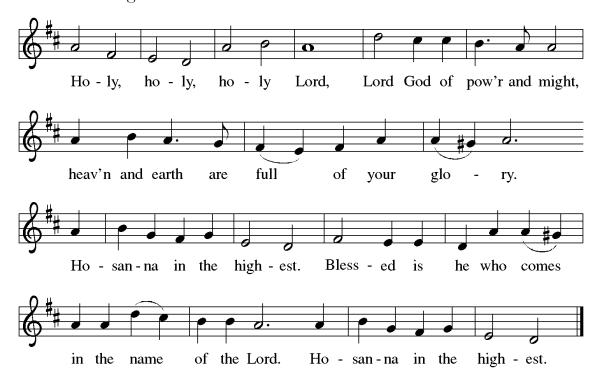
Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga a nosostros tu reino, hagase tu voluntad, asi en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia; perdona nuestras ofensas, como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion, mas libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

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

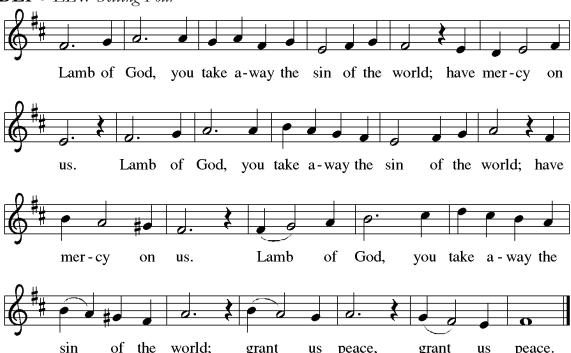
of

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

AGNUS DEI ● ELW Setting Four



us

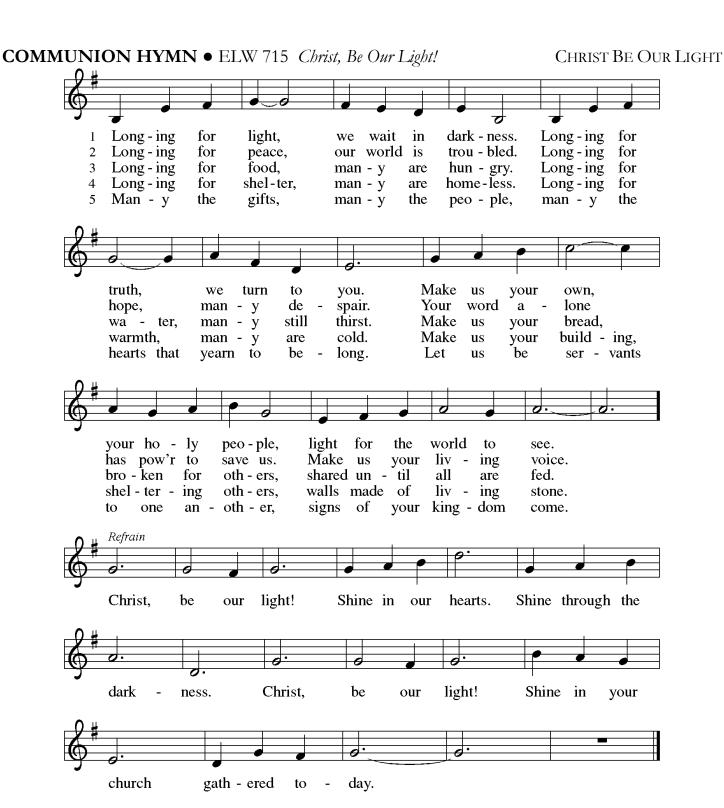
peace,

grant

us

peace.

grant



POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ★ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE • Peaceful Meditation

Paul Fey

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WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller Senior Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Rev. Gary Nuss Support Pastor

Deacon Kyle Warfield

Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

COMMUNION SERVER (8:45)

Melissa Groen
Director of Children's Ministries

READERS

Jacky Heinbaugh Martin 8:45 Sunday and Rose Shomari 11:15

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Jacky and John Martin **8:45** Elinita Mhandu, Sunday, Rose, Ernest Shomari **11:15**

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham Director of Music

Schola Cantorum

WE WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, this morning (11:15), Michelle Aurora Hinojosa. Michelle is the daughter of Amanda and Miguel Hinojosa, and the sister of Benjamin and Tommy. God's blessings always be with you, Michelle.

ADVENT

THE ROYAL BLUE OF HOPE surrounding us this morning tells us that we have begun a sacred time of preparation for the birthday of our Savior as well as the time he returns in all his glory. It is Advent, the first week of this four-week journey. We light a candle on the wreath, but soon it will be filled with beaming flame - Christ comes. During this season we hope for the birth of the baby Jesus in our hearts and we look to the coming of Jesus when he comes to usher in the kingdom. Christ came, Christ comes, Christ is coming.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

THE ADVENT WREATH has a long history. Have you ever thought about the image of light in the middle of winter darkness? Let us think also of the unbroken circle of greens, clearly a symbol of eternal life and the everlasting love we have in Jesus.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIGHT the Advent wreath? Please contact Melissa Groen, mgroen@saintluke.us

21 AND BUILDING STRONG THANK YOU THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have completed a Faith Commitment Card for 2025. We dedicated those that were handed in last Sunday and we are almost to our goal. Thank you so much to all who did this – your generosity was so evident. If you have not yet completed a card, kindly do today. The Stewardship Committee will be making follow up calls so thank you so much for making sure to complete a card.

The Stewardship Committee and Congregation Council asked that beginning with August 2024, each household prayerfully consider an increase in giving per month by \$21. If you have already increased by \$21 per month, thank you so much. If not, please kindly consider this extra gift for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Thank you.

A FEW REMINDERS

THIS WEEK, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting: 40 Foot Tree and a Campus of 50,000 Lights
Refreshments, Carols, Fun
Saint Luke Front Yard

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Fair Trade Winds in the Fireside Room during the morning
Also, check our the Saint Luke book table New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of the Bible will be on sale, too.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:45 a.m. Worship, Holy Commuion
11:15 a.m. Worship with selections from the Messiah, No Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service
7:00 p.m. Misa Navidad (Worship is in Spanish)
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of
Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Festival Worship

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 29 10:00 A.M.

One morning worship service

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6

8:45 and 11:15 a.m.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LA SAGRADA CHILDREN

DEADLINE SUNDAY NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

Can you help? This year, like last, we will be **giving the families gift cards to purchase the children's Christmas Gifts.** If you can help, please go to www.saintlukegive.us to donate. You will see a line that says *Children's Christmas Gifts (La Sagrada)*. You may also mail gifts to Saint Luke, but please note on the check, *Christmas La Sagrada*. Deadline for donations is Sunday, December 8. We will offer special dedication prayers that day for the funds received. Thank you so much.

A NEW KIND OF CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18

Yes, like last year, instead of giving Poinsettias in remembrance or in honor of a loved one, we are doing the same with food cards. Now more than ever the ministry of distributing food cards through the Saint Luke Food Pantry is needed more than ever.

Please consider giving a card, or cards, for food and know all dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve and Day worship bulletins.

Poinsettia Food Card. Or go to www.sldedication.us

COMMEMORATIONS:

Tuesday, December 3– Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552: A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Wednesday, December 4–John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749: A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Friday, December 6–Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342: Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

December 7– Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397: While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

SUNDAY, December 1-First Sunday of

Advent

7:30am Tech Rehearsal 8:00am Schola Cantorum 8:45am Worship (Hybrid)

10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)

10:00am Fellowship

11:15am Worship/Holy Baptism (Hybrid)

5:00pm AA

5:00pm Misa Español 6:00pm Reception

MONDAY, December 2

9:00am CDS Classes 10:00am CDS Yoga 1:30pm CDS Aftercare

TUESDAY, December 3

9:00am CDS Classes

1:30pm Program Staff Meeting

1:30pm CDS Aftercare5:00pm Stewardship5:30pm Children's Choir7:00pm Nominating

7:00pm Reformation Handbells

WEDNESDAY, December 4

7:00am Zoom Faith Connections

9:00am CDS Classes

10:00am Women in Community

1:30pm CDS Aftercare 5:30pm RSCM Choristers 6:30pm Tree Lighting 7:30pm Schola Cantorum

7:30pm AA

THURSDAY, December 5

9:00am CDS Classes 10:00am Fire Drill

1:30pm CDS Aftercare

7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)

8:30pm AA

FRIDAY, December 6

9:00am CDS Classes

SATURDAY, December 7

9:30am AA

10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Retreat

11:00am Al-Anon

4:00pm Fair Trade Set Up

SUNDAY, December 8-Second Sunday

of Advent

7:30am Tech Rehearsal
8:00am RSCM Choristers
8:15am Schola Cantorum
8:45am Worship (Hybrid)

10:00am Fellowship

10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)

10:00am Sunday School

10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Class

11:15am Worship (Hybrid)

3:00pm Girl Scouts

5:00pm AA

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed

