



PARACLETE

DECEMBER 2021

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: office@holyspiritmissoula.org • Website: www.holyspiritmissoula.org

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



ADVENT IV, December 19

8 a.m., Online Liturgy of the Word service premieres on YouTube

10:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist in person

7 p.m., Online Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols premieres on YouTube

CHRISTMAS EVE,

Friday, December 24

4 p.m., Online Christmas Eve service premieres on YouTube

5 p.m., Outdoor Christmas Eucharist in church courtyard

CHRISTMAS DAY,

Saturday, December 25

No services

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, December 26

No online service at 8 a.m.

10:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist in person

No Church School on this Sunday

From the Rector

Adapting our Christmas celebration

During the season of Advent, we actively wait to see what God is doing. Each year is a new experience, but the season always brings us to Christmas – the knowledge of God coming to dwell among us – Emmanuel. For all we do to celebrate this gift, to mark it as we have year after year, it is never exactly the same and still, God comes.

Last year, we were all at home, celebrating virtually online because of Covid-19. This year we are moving about more readily, many with up to three vaccine shots received. Yet even so, at the writing of this article, Covid-19 transmission rates remain at a very high-risk level in Missoula. How do we care for one another well, at Holy Spirit and in our Missoula community, as we prepare for the Christmas season, a time when our Lessons and Carols service and the two services on Christmas Eve have around two hundred each?

I discussed this with the Vestry and Staff at Holy Spirit, and we produced the following to keep with our love of neighbor and our desire to celebrate Christmas together. With travelers coming from all over to be with family, gathering in the church without spacing during the on-going pandemic was too great a risk to take. We decided to adapt yet again. Lessons and Carols will be virtual online only, a blend of last year's online service with new additions from the Choir. The principal service on Christmas Eve will also be online, but in addition, we will offer an outdoor service with Eucharist in the Courtyard. White lights will surround us – even lights on the big Spruce – and we will gather around firepits, offer the prayers, Eucharist, and sing carols. Warm cider and hot cocoa will help with warmth.

Continued on page 2

Christmas Services

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4 p.m. - Christmas Eve service premieres online. Watch any time after that when it is convenient for your family.

5 p.m. - Attend our in-person Christmas Eve Eucharist in the church courtyard. Be sure to dress warmly!

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

No services on Christmas Day

OUR STAFF

Clergy:

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger,
Rector

revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,
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NEWSLETTER

Paraclete, from the Greek meaning 'Holy Spirit,' is published monthly, September through May, by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. All material is due by the fifteenth of the month preceding the month of publication.

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Our celebration begins on December 19 Join us for Lessons and Carols

Join us on Sunday night, December 19th, for an encore presentation of last year's online Lessons and Carols service – which drew over 500 views last year on YouTube! The recording will be slightly revised and updated, but much will remain the same: the beautiful carols and anthems that have become familiar to us over time will be heard again, and Bishop Marty will be our officiant.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which began in England in the early 1900s, is now part of Anglican and Episcopal worship throughout the world. The service is made up of lessons alternating with the singing of congregational and choral music. Beginning with the story of Adam and

Eve, the lessons trace the prophecies of the Nativity and end with the beautiful passage from John: "In the beginning was the Word...."

I invite all of you to join the choir on the 19th, and in the words of the beautiful opening prayer, "to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass."

The link to the Lessons & Carols service will be sent out via email on Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th, just as we do for the early Sunday online service. Look for it in your email!

– DR. NANCY COOPER

Christmas continued from page 1

Bundle up and wear comfortable shoes. The first service held in the church by our ancestors was on Christmas Eve in a building still under construction without windows placed in the openings reserved for them. They must have bundled up too! Then, on Sunday, December 26th we will offer our in-person service at 10:15 am with whatever Covid-19 protocols are necessary. As the first Sunday of Christmas, there will be an emphasis on Christmas hymns and carols as well.

Please note the following: there will be no virtual services on Sunday,

December 26th, or January 2nd or 9th. Our videographer, James Gartner, will be busy preparing our online offerings right up to Christmas Eve, and then he and the clergy of Holy Spirit will be taking a bit of leave. We thank you for your understanding and hope that the creative worship services for Christmas will bring you joy and hope as we celebrate the great gift of God with us – Emmanuel!

Wherever you may be this Christmas, may you be blessed with the knowledge that you are loved by God and remembered by all of us at Holy Spirit.

– WITH YOU ON THE WAY,
TERRI+



Celebrating Christmas at home

Read Luke 2: 1-20 together as a family. Ask each other what you remember from the story about: Jesus, Immanuel, stable, Joseph, Mary, Emperor Augustus. Allow each family member to share about what he or she believes is the most important part of the story and why. Don't try to convince one another of which part is most important, just practice listening to one another's responses. If you have a nativity scene at home, allow your children to help you get it out.

Encourage each family member to take a turn retelling the story (or the parts of the story they can recall) using the nativity figures. Incorporate ritual into this family time: ring a bell, sing a song, or say a prayer. The importance is sharing this holy story together and allowing your children the opportunity to witness for themselves how you as a parent (or grandparent) value it.

— THE REV. GRETCHEN STROHMAIER
ASSISTANT PRIEST

When does Baptism take place at Holy Spirit?

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. Baptism takes place during the Easter Vigil service (Saturday evening, in April), and at a Sunday service about three times a year: the Day of Pentecost (the first Sunday in June next year), the Sunday after All Saints' Day (early November), and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the first Sunday after Epiphany, in early January). Baptism may also take place when the bishop visits (usually February or March), and on a Sunday during the summer on a date to be determined. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or for your child, preparation needs to take place. Please contact the office at (406) 542-2167 to speak with our rector, The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger.

The next date for Baptism will be on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at the 10:15 a.m. service.



Church School 2021

All God's Children need God's love

What do all God's children need? Love! All God's children—no matter where they live, no matter how old or young—no matter the color of their skin—all of them (all of us) need God's love. In Church School we will explore how Jesus—the best gift of all—is the bridge between God and the earth. It is through Jesus that we experience God's love. Church School kids will be practicing ways they can share God's love with others.

Here are the lectionary-based lessons that the children will hear during

December:

Sunday December 5

Zechariah, Luke 1:68-79

Sunday December 12

John the Baptist, Luke 3:1-18

Sunday December 19

Mary Visits Elizabeth, Luke 1:39-55

Sunday December 26

No Church School on this Sunday.



Explorations:

Opportunities
to cultivate,
challenge
and live our
faith

Advent Mini-Retreat: How will God be born in you?

We cherish our familiar Christmas story. We love the pastoral images. We are used to hearing the story, watching it, and singing about it. Over time it is easy to become a distant observer of this story. We invite you to join us for this mini-retreat and experience this story through a more active and participatory lens.

Jan Richardson in her book, *In Wisdom's Path*, explores the idea that Christ was born in a cave and that we each "carry a cave, a hidden place within us, into which God longs to be born." Advent, she claims, is a season to enter the cave of our hearts, to "turn inward and encounter the God who seeks to emerge through us." You are being invited in this retreat to consider how God will be born in you during this season of Advent and Christmas.

Set aside Wednesday evening December 8th and plan to join other members of your church family for this mini-Advent retreat from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Set the tone for the season of Advent. Allow yourself to exhale and decompress from the pace of daily life.

Share a simple meal of soup and bread in the parish hall. Light a candle as we gather in the chancel for a time of introduction and prayer. Then use an hour on your own to pray, meditate, journal, write poetry, or explore collage, drawing or painting. Feel free to use the time in the way that is most nurturing to you. Make it the Advent retreat that you need. Basic supplies will be provided. We'll have time for sharing about our experiences of the evening, and then we'll participate in a closing ritual and Eucharist.

Rest assured we will take special COVID precautions with masking and distancing during the evening. Please **sign up by Friday December 3rd** so that we can arrange for food. Call the office at (406) 542-2167 or email Reverend Gretchen at gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org. Let us know as soon as possible if you need childcare for this event.

– THE REV. GRETCHEN STROHMAIER
ASSISTANT PRIEST

Centering Prayer meets the third Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

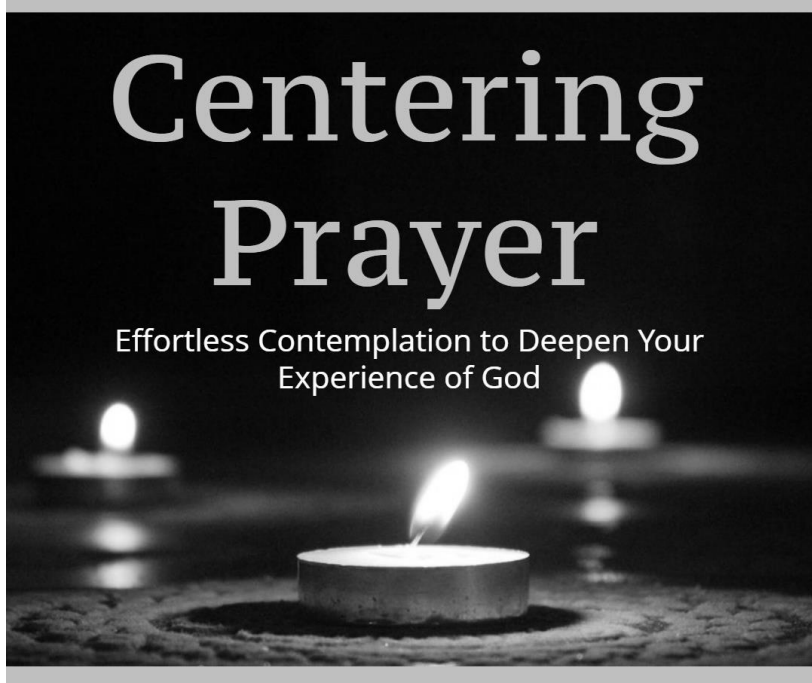
Join us for Centering Prayer in December

Centering Prayer meets again on December 21 from 4-5 p.m. We will be returning to the comfort of the Guild Room and following the COVID guidelines of spacing, fresh air and masking. This ancient meditation style called Centering Prayer is simple and easy to learn if it is new to you. The leader will be gently leading the group into and out of a 20-minute silent time.

We will meet on the third Tuesday of every month from 4-5 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Dousset at 406-880-1680 or Willie Hoffer at 541-815-9609.

Centering Prayer

Effortless Contemplation to Deepen Your Experience of God



Wrestling with the truth about colonization

Members of our parish recently completed a 5-session course through Common Good Missoula entitled, *Wrestling with the Truth about Colonization*. Here is a short reflection from one of the course participants:

The most challenging part of the series was the caution to not jump into action to right the wrongs of the past but to listen. First, to just listen to the stories. Listening is hard, especially if you have to do it for very long. Listening feels like you aren't doing anything at all. We were encouraged to sit with our unsettled and uncomfortable feelings about the wrongs of the past. That is not an easy place to sit.

Community Ministries

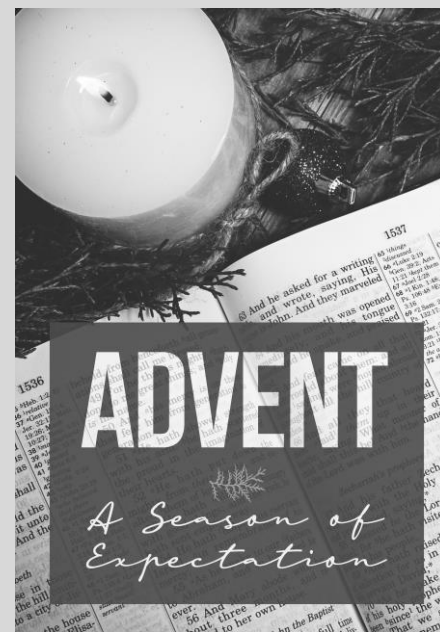
Learn about our Hellgate High School neighbors on Hellgate Sunday, December 12

Each school day, more than 1,100 students make Hellgate High School a base from which to learn, connect, and live their gifts and challenges. As their next-door neighbors, we witness their comings and goings and look for ways to grow our understanding of their stories, dreams, and needs. Our Hellgate Sunday on December 12th will help us to do just that. Please join with our Hellgate Ministries Coordinator A'Lisa Scott and the worship team on the 12th to learn a little more about our Hellgate neighbors and ways that you can be a

part of the Holy Spirit – Hellgate life we share.

Please contact A'Lisa at adfams@montana.com or through the church office at 406-542-2167 to talk about ways you can grow as a Hellgate neighbor.

— IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD,
THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA
DVARISHKIS
dorcied@gmail.com ~
406-542-2167 church office



Advent Journey

Advent is not just a time for getting ready for Christmas. Advent is a season to journey inside ourselves, ultimately to listen to God. Jan Richardson in her book, *In Wisdom's Path*, writes,

"Thou my source
and my returning,
my beginning
and welcome home,
bless the path
on which I journey;
be the way
that leads me on."

This spiritual exploration requires more intention than luck, she claims. "It takes deciding that we will do whatever is necessary to make it happen."

"The path before me:
may I walk it in peace.

The path behind me:
may I leave it in peace.

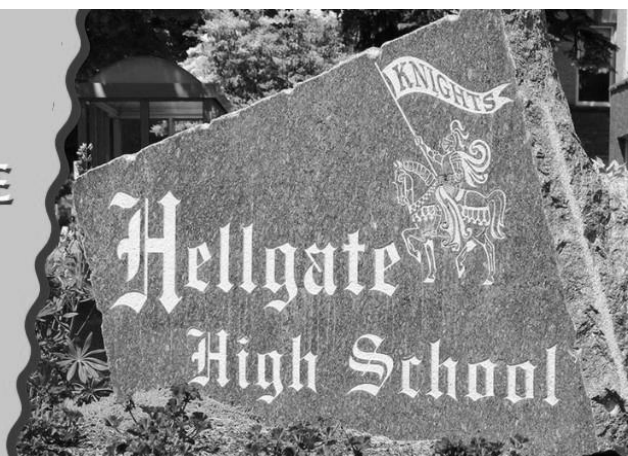
And the path within me:
O God,
may it be peace indeed."

HELLGATE SUNDAY

CELEBRATE
OUR HELLGATE
MINISTRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Learn more about ways you
can help with this ministry





Flower donors needed for Christmas

We are now in the season of Advent, and we would like to remind everyone that although there are no flowers on the altar during this season, your special prayers and memorials are still read. Your contributions for flowers during Advent are used for the special flowers at the Christmas celebration, and at that time, your prayers and memorials are noted once again in the Christmas bulletin. **Please let us know by noon on Monday, December 6, if you would like to have flowers listed in the Christmas bulletin.** Extra help with flower gifts is always appreciated at this time of year.

Please call the church office at (406) 542-2167 or email us at office@holyspiritmissoula.org to let us know. Thank you!



Join us for the Holiday Market Silent Auction and Bake Sale!

For three Sundays following Thanksgiving, Holy Spirit will hold its 2021 Holiday Silent Auction and Bake Sale. On November 28, December 5, and December 12, you are invited to bid on the following: Lani and Bob Brewer's Oregon beach condo; a hand-dyed, hand-knitted New Zealand wool cardigan sweater (L); "Into the Woods" – a signed, limited-edition giclée print from a gouache original by our own Barb Morrison; and special holiday baked goods by some of HSP's star bakers.

Bidding is expected to be fierce. Viewing and bidding activities will be held safely outside in the courtyard after church (weather permitting) on those three Sundays. Bidding ends on December 12 with winners receiving their special items at that time. If you are unable to bid in person, you may contact Diane Rasmuson at 406 493 6192 to find out the bidding status and put in a telephone bid.

– BETSY HOLMQUIST
HOLIDAY MARKET COMMITTEE

It's not too late to shop at the 2021 Online Holiday Market!

Remember that through 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 2, you can take care of all your holiday shopping with Holy Spirit's second annual Online Holiday Market. No need to worry about supply chain issues, as all items are "in stock" and ready for purchase. You will be able to pick up your items at the church the first weekend of December – perfect timing for holiday mailing.

Holiday decor, gorgeous handmade crafts, vintage items, plus fun re-giftables are all included in this year's inventory.

Something for everyone on your list, plus a gift or two just for you!

Bookmark and visit the site – remembering the purchase times and dates: 8:00 a.m. 11/26 – 5:00 p.m. 12/2. <https://www.Charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/Holy-spirit-online-holiday-market-2021-28317>. Please encourage your local friends and family to shop this year's Holy Spirit Online Holiday Market, too, by sharing this link with them.

Online Holiday Market site open through 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 2. There's still time to shop!

Creation Care Ministries

Recycling your Christmas trees

Once all the packages have been opened, the carols sung and the cookies eaten, as the decorations come down, what do you do with your tree? Christmas trees can be recycled into mulch or put outside as winter as shelter for birds and small mammals. Trees can provide a space for wildlife to get out of the wind and snow. You can also add a bit of birdseed to turn it into a bed and breakfast. Deer will also browse the branches. If you put your tree where you can view it easily from a window, you can also provide some winter entertainment from wildlife watching.

Missoula Parks and Recreation's Urban Forestry Division invites citizens to drop off their cut trees at three area parks and at Garden City Compost through mid-January. The trees will be recycled into productive mulch and conserve valuable landfill space.

Residents may drop their trees, sans stands and decorations, at:

- Fort Missoula Regional Park West, 36th Avenue parking lot ONLY.
- McCormick Park, 600 Cregg Ln.
- Playfair Park, 3001 Bancroft.
- Garden City Compost, 1125

Clark Fork Ln., weekdays from 8 am to 4 pm. Please drop organic materials only, and do not leave trees outside the gates at the compost facility. Garden City Compost donated compost to our container gardening workshop last spring, so you may see your tree again!

Please remove tree stands and decorations from the tree and do not dump yard waste or garbage.

If you'd like to support Christmas Ever-Green and help plant more trees throughout Missoula, please consider making a donation to Trees For Missoula. Donate online at the Friends of Missoula Parks website (www.fmparks.org), phone (406) 721-PARK, stop by Currents Aquatics Center in McCormick Park, or mail donations to the Urban Forestry Division, 100 Hickory St., Missoula, 59801. To learn more about how you can support Missoula's urban forest, please visit www.treesformissoula.org. For more information, call (406) 721-PARK.

— WARREN GARTNER

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

**We're updating our Prayer List**

An important part of our worship at Holy Spirit is the opportunity to pray by name for people in need. We pray for members of our congregation and for many others for whom our prayers are requested. **On January 2, we will make a fresh start with the Prayer List included in the Sunday Prayers of the People.** In order to keep our prayers current and meaningful, we are asking for your help. If there is someone whose name you would like to have on the list, please give that information to Judy Parock (office@holyspiritmissoula.org). The renewed list will include only the names which have been sent to us and the names of our shut-in parishioners. We will renew the list again in six months' time. People may remain on the Prayer List for as long as necessary because we know and understand that many needs are ongoing. However, when someone is ready to be removed from the list, we ask that you let us know. Thank you for your help and for your understanding.

— JUDY PAROCK

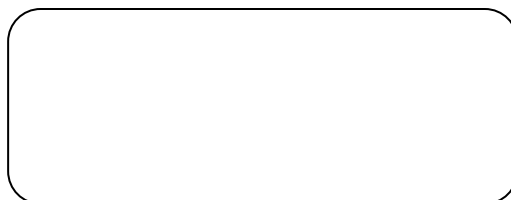
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ADVENT RETREAT

How will God be born in you?

DECEMBER

8

6 - 9 PM

Meet in the parish hall
All are welcome!

Register by December 3. Call the office at
(406) 542-2167 or email Rev. Gretchen at
gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org.

