

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 7:30am and 10:00am

Aloha and Welcome!

Whoever you are, whatever your story, you are welcome here. We pray that your soul is nourished through worship, the beauty of this sacred space, and the presence of God's love within this unity.

We are blessed to have you join us for worship today!



CONTACT US

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Church Office: 808-533-1943 Fax 808-531-9904

Office Manager's Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., 9am-3pm; Fri., 9am-1pm

On the Web: www.stpetershonolulu.org

Holy Eucharist

Prelude *(Take this time to center your hearts for worship.)*

Welcome

The Word of God

Presider: Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People: **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Processional Hymn *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* **Hymnal 1982, #76**

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Hymn *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

Gently lead them homeward.

The Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. *(silence)*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Lord have mercy

Joseph A. Eppink

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the world and peace with - in our lives.

Ha - ku, e a - lo - ha mai. Kri - sto, i a - lo - ha. Ha - ku, e a - lo - ha mai.

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The First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

The Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Hymnal 1982, #66

Before the Gospel we sing:

After the Gospel we sing:

Verse 1:

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in thee.**

Verse 4:

**By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,

proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson

Music Meditation

(7:30am)

Manny Dayao

(10:00am)

Chancel Choir

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated**

at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Each petition will end with "God of grace" and the response is "Hear our prayer".

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

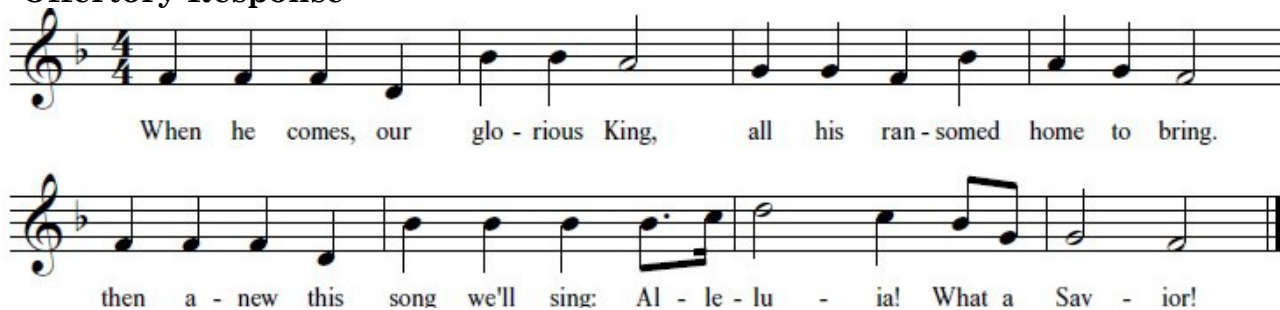
Announcements and Birthdays (pg. 830, #50)

Welcome to those of you who are visiting with us today! Please take a moment to sign a pew card and place it in the offering plate so that we can extend a personal welcome to you. We are glad you're here!

Offering *Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.*

Offertory Hymn *Advent begins in the darkness of night* **See pg. 15**

Offertory Response



When he comes, our glo - rious King, all his ran - somed home to bring.
then a - new this song we'll sing: Al - le - lu - ia! What a Sav - ior!

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks and praise O Lord, our God, Sustainer of the Universe.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being. From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of your creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. Again and again you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Savior. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus (front section of Hymnal 1982)

S130

The people stand or kneel.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Therefore, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, creator of all.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

**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
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Gifts of God for the people of God: Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Distribution

All baptized are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood. Those who are not baptized are encouraged to come forward for a blessing, signaling this by crossing your arms over one's chest.

** Communion may be received by kneeling or standing at the altar rail.*

** Gluten free wafers are available upon request of the server.*

** You may partake from the cup by drinking or by intinction (dipping a small portion of the bread, being careful not to touch the wine with your fingers).*

** If you wish to receive communion in the pew, please let an usher know.*

For those joining by live-stream or watching online at a later time, although you are not physically receiving communion, you are invited to spend this time in prayer, acknowledging your desire to be wholly united with Jesus and for your soul to never be separated from him.

Post Communion Prayer (Standing or kneeling)

Presider: Let us pray.

**God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

The Blessing

May God who comes among us,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Hymnal 1982, #67

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All sing **Rejoice! Rejoice!**

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Organ Postlude

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please call or email Tiare Ono, tiare.h.ono@gmail.com if you have a prayer request. Always ask permission of the person first if you want to add someone's name other than your own. Be sure to provide the church office with updates. Names added by members will remain on our prayer list for one month. After that time, the names will be cycled off the list, unless there is a request for the name to be added for another month. Joe & Kathleen C., Sim K., Natalia P., Valerie Y. B., Eduardo C., Rosie C., Peter D., Susan D., LaVerne D., Cathlen D., Dallis F-N., Gail F-S., Catherine F., Bert & Cheryl F., Cal G., Iris, Francis I., Ken I., Sue J., Judy & Maurice, Jonathan, Elise K., Hilary K., Roland K., Gerald K., Mel K., Cynthia L., Loretta L., Lincoln L., Charles L., Bill McK., Lea M., D.N., Dara N., Kelly N., Carolyn N., Ralph P., Franklin P., Rodney P., Sherri P-H., Monica P., Sharon P., Janet P., Patricia S., Ho-Min S., Ediza T., Dan T., Stan T., Regina T., Toni, Bertha U., Stuart U., Jackson VM., Janet VM., Roy W. & family, Al W., Ian W., Roland W., Via W., Steve Y., Tim Y., Lynette Y. Also, we pray for the victims of war in the Middle East, Ukraine, and all those affected by gun violence. If you are interested in providing intentional prayers for those on our prayer list and others for whom we pray, become part of the Prayer Circle. Please contact Tiare Ono, tiare.h.ono@gmail.com or the church office.

We pray for the soul of Barbara Nishida, mother of Paula Choy.

TODAY

Join us for the First of the Month Coffee Hour. Meet in the Parish Hall after the 7:30am service and on the Ewa lanai near the front doors after the 10:00am service. Mahalo to Jan Yap & Beth Chang, and Nani Ho & Rae Gorman for hosting the 7:30am and 10:00am coffee hours ~ you are appreciated!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES THIS MORNING!

Children's Christian Adventure (Sunday School) is held between the 7:30am and 10:00am services in the Adventure Room - See ushers for directions

Adult Forum resumes next Sunday. Pr. Ruth leads this morning's study using the book "Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices".



Electronic Giving - You can give to St. Peter's Church electronically with this QR code or schedule your pledge for automatic withdrawal by going to the church's website, www.stpetershonolulu.org and clicking on "Donate." You may also mail your offerings and pledges to the church office. Thank you for your part in making this ministry possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Flower Offering – If you would like to make a floral dedication, please complete the insert on pg. 15 and mail or scan it to the church office. Forms received by Dec. 14 will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

Getting Ready to Celebrate Christmas! On one of the Sundays of Christmas, we will be singing Christmas carols. Tell us your favorite Christmas carols, by filling out the form on pg. 16 and returning it to the church office by Dec. 21.

The deadline for end of year giving needs to be received or postmarked by 12/31 in order to appear on your 2025 Giving Statement. We appreciate your support of St. Peter's throughout the year!

Join us in Contemplative Prayer, a practice rooted in ancient Christian tradition. Meet in the sanctuary at 6pm -7:30pm Wednesdays, 12/10 and 12/17. For more information, contact Fr. Bill Heran, w.heran@gmail.com

Blue Worship – Special service on Thur. Dec. 18, 6:00pm during Jazz Vespers. This is geared toward helping those present recognize their strength and encourage them to be gentle with themselves. It's hoped this will lead to comfort in shared experiences of loss and love, emerging with renewed peace and hope.

Special Youth Gathering, July 28-31, 2026. Registration needed by Dec. 31. Speak with Pastor Ruth for information.

Did you forget to bring your pledge card? Never fear – there is STILL time!! Simply place them in the offering plate or mail to the church office. **Pledges are welcome at any time! Packets are available at the back of the church.

MAHALO NUI LOA to everyone who contributed to the Towers at Kuhio Park and Wounded Warriors outreach efforts! A check in the amount of \$1200 was mailed to PACT at the Towers at Kuhio Park.

Non-perishable food still needed! Please bring canned goods to the church on Sundays, and they'll be delivered to the Hawaii Foodbank.

A Moment with Music: Immerse yourself in scripture readings and hymns. This week focuses on *Advent 2*. Available by 6 AM, you can enjoy this 7-minute meditation at your convenience on our Facebook page or website. You can also find it on YouTube at @dreppink.

Check out Jazz Vespers! And if you can come a little early to help set up refreshments or the light supper afterwards, your presence will be gratefully appreciated! Thanks to volunteers, we're able to offer a simple meal. Please contact Leila Diamond at LeilaD@me.com if you can lend a hand!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wed. Dec. 10 -- No Bible Study this week.

Wed. Dec. 10 -- 6:00pm, Contemplative Prayer, Sanctuary

Thurs. Dec. 11 - Jazz Vespers - "in person" and on church Facebook page and website

Sat. Dec. 13, 10:00am – Rehearsal, Children's Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary

**Sun. Dec. 14, 7:30am service – Children's Christmas Pageant! Don't miss it!
10:00am – Regular worship service**

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:4-9; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11



Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Peter's

Sunday, Dec. 14

7:30am service -- Children's Christmas Pageant

10:00am -- 3rd Sunday in Advent

Thursday, Dec. 18

6:00pm -- Blue Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 21

7:30am -- 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00am -- 4th Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, Dec. 24

**5:00pm -- Lessons and Carols with a Pop up Pageant along with the
Cathedral of St. Andrew**

7:30am -- Christmas Music and Carols

8:00pm -- Candlelight Worship Service

Thursday, Dec. 25

9:30am -- Christmas Day Service

Sunday, Dec. 28

**9:30am -- This will be a festival worship of lessons and carols as we
continue to celebrate!**

Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026

7:30am -- 2nd Sunday of Christmas

10:00am -- 2nd Sunday of Christmas

TODAY'S MINISTERS

Presider		The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson
Deacon		The Rev. Dcn. Peter Wu
Organist		Dr. Joseph Eppink
Pianist	(7:30am)	Manny Dayao
Lector	(7:30am)	Barton & Beth Cox
	(10:00am)	Mary Ellen Johnson
Intercessor	(7:30am)	Stephani Wight
	(10:00am)	Kandie George
Eucharistic Ministers	(7:30am)	Chucky Nakoa
	(10:00am)	Haroldwyn Chang
Live-streaming	(7:30am)	Manny Dayao, Terry Dang
		Maiesha Stovall-Nakoa, Randall Chun
Ushers/Greeters	(7:30am)	Nancy Rowe, Myron & Beth Chang
	(10:00am)	Keith & Velma Lee, Cheryl Saito
		Haroldwyn Chang, Barry Wood, Bryan Matsumoto
Altar Guild		Rae Gorman, Lynda Hino
Bread for Communion		Barton & Beth Cox

STAFF

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson
Assisting Priest	The Rev. Dr. Bill Heran
Director of Music	Dr. Joseph Eppink
Lay Associate for Worship and Music	Manny Dayao
Office Manager	Susan Sugiyama
Bookkeeper	Richert Au Hoy
Sexton	Oriel Agcaoili
Custodians	Oriel and Caridad Agcaoili

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The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) can be found online at www.bcponline.org

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ADVENT BEGINS IN THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT

David Bjorlin

RESCOV
Benjamin Brody



1. Ad - vent be - gins in the dark - ness of night,
2. Ad - vent be - gins with our dreams yet de - ferred.
3. Ad - vent be - gins in op - pres - sion's do - main,
4. Ad - vent goes on till the prom - ised dawn breaks,



wait - ing and watch - ing for signs of a light,
Love sounds ri - dic - u - lous; prayer seems ab - surd.
marked by the cries of con - fu - sion and pain.
ty - rants are top - pled and God's dream a - wakes.



walk - ing in faith that the path will ap - pear,
But in the midst of life's cen - ter - less maze,
Yet hope is kin - dled where jus - tice is done,
Hope is per - fect - ed and faith is made sight.



dar - ing to fol - low in spite of our fear.
we lift to - geth - er our pro - test of praise.
mer - cy is nur - tured and peace is be - gun.
Love is our cen - ter and Christ is our light.

2025
Christmas
Dedications

Offerings made for your dedication request will go to the altar flower fund to provide flowers throughout the year.

Name (PRINT) _____

Address _____

Given in ___ Memory ___ Thanksgiving ___ Other
(please specify)

****PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY****

Please place this form in the offering plate or mail to the church office. For publishing in the service bulletins, please submit your request by Sunday, December 14, 2025.

St Peter's Episcopal Church. 1317 Queen Emma Street.
Honolulu HI 96813

FOR OFFICE USE: Date: _____

Received: \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash _____



List your favorite Christmas carols which will be sung on one of the Sundays of Christmas! Please return this to church office by Dec. 21.
