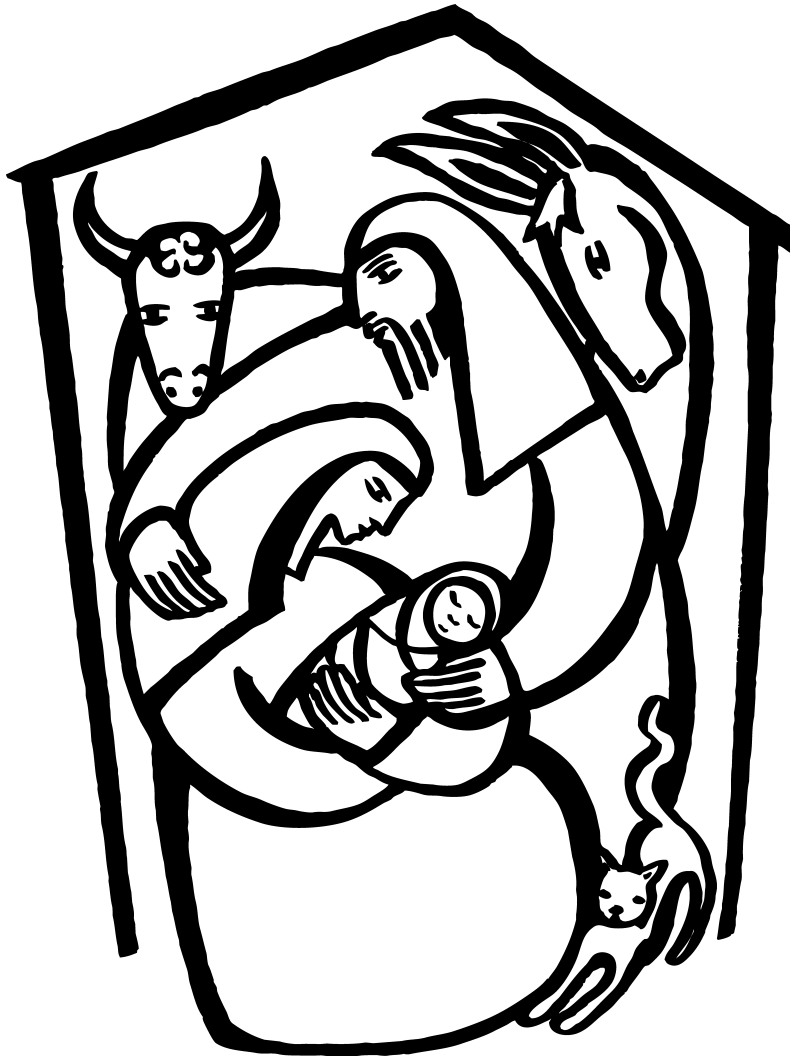


# Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve



**Good Soil Lutheran Ministries**

*Growing Together in Christ*

December 24, 2021

7:00 p.m.

# Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

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Rocky River, OH 44116  
440-331-1773



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## Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

## Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal! All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Communion wafers are all Gluten-free this evening and there's a choice of wine or grape juice (both pre-packaged).

Key:

**Bold Font** – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us, **masks are required in the building**. Masking of young children is up to the discretion of parents. Council continues to monitor the situation.*

## Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Prelude

#### Welcome

*This Christmas Call to Worship features alternating scripture verses from Isaiah chapter 9 and John chapter 1.*

#### † Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.**

Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**We have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son.**

His ruling authority shall grow continually, and there will be no limits to the wholeness he brings.

**From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.**

He will establish and uphold God's kingdom with justice and with righteousness, from this time on and forever more.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us. Come, let us worship him!**

† **Gathering Hymn: Oh, Come All Ye Faithful**  
**ELW 283 v. 1, 3**

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,

	<p>O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!</p> <p>Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880</p>
<p><i>The presiding minister greets the assembly with the words used by Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, and a shared hope in God.</i></p>	<p><b>† Greeting</b></p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. <b>And also with you.</b></p>
<p><i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.</i></p>	<p><b>† Prayer of the Day</b></p> <p>Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>Children's Sermon: Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle</b></p>
	<p><b>Christ Candle Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing ELW 270 v 1</b></p> <p>1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild,</p>

God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

*The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel to feature the beloved infancy narrative of Jesus.*

### The Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

#### **Gospel Part 1: Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

<sup>5</sup>Joseph went to Bethlehem to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

#### **Hymn: Away in the Manger ELW 277 v 1**

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

### **Gospel Part 2: Luke 2:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there the shepherds saw that with the angel there was a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

### **Hymn: The First Noel ELW 300 v 1**

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

Text: English traditional

*The Gospel reading is announced by the pastor. We rise to our feet, if able, as a sign of respect for the Gospel that reveals Jesus Christ to us. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.*

**† Gospel Part 3: Luke 2:15-20**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup>When the shepherds saw Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Christmas Homily – The Rev. Marissa Harrison**

**† Hymn of the Day: O Little Town of Bethlehem  
ELW 279, v. 1, 3, 4**

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.



The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

*As the church, we  
pray for those in  
our community and  
around the world.  
The prayers are also  
responsive,  
emphasizing our  
own participation.*

### † Prayers of the Church

Joining our voices with the angels and heavenly host, let  
us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in  
need.

*A brief silence.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire  
your church throughout the world to proclaim the good  
news of Jesus' birth to all who seek hope and new life.  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures and bless all of creation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**


Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night especially... and also those whom we lift up in our hearts either silently or aloud. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, Joseph, John the baptizer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p><b>† Passing of the Peace</b></p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always  <b>And also with you.</b></p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Meal</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p><b>Offering</b></p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at <a href="http://www.goodsoillutheran.org/support">www.goodsoillutheran.org/support</a>. This QR code will take you directly to Good Soil's online giving page:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
	<p><b>Offertory</b></p>
	<p><b>† Offering Prayer</b></p> <p>Gracious God,  your Word-made-flesh brings wholeness to the earth.  As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  prepare us to receive the grace upon grace that  you offer at this table,</p>

	<p>and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>† Great Thanksgiving</b></p> <p>The Lord be with you. <b>And also with you.</b></p> <p>Lift up your hearts. <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b></p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. <b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b></p>
	<p><b>† Words of Institution</b></p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p><b>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
	<p><b>† Invitation to Communion</b></p> <p>Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.</p>
	<p><b>Communion</b></p> <p><i>Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the</i></p>

*presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. Receive the elements and then return to your seat before partaking of them. All communion wafers are gluten-free this evening.*

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

### **Communion Hymns:**

#### **In the Bleak Midwinter    ELW 294**

- 1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.
- 2 Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.
- 3 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd

I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

### **Additional Communion Hymns:**

**'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime    ELW 284**

*Refrain*

Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria!

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.  
Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company.

**That Boy-Child of Mary    ELW 293**

*Refrain*

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,  
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000  
Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

### **† Post-Communion Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

**† Candlelight Hymn:    Silent Night    ELW 281**

*Please tip the unlit candle to receive the flame.*

- 1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

### The Sending

*God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.*

*With the blessing of  
God, we go out to  
live as Christ's body  
in the world.*

#### † Blessing

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds  
with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you  
this day † through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

*Please extinguish your candle.*

*Through the  
sending hymn we  
are sent out into the  
world to follow  
Jesus.*

† **Sending Hymn: Joy to the World**  
**ELW 267 vs 1, 2, & 4**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
  
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
  
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

*The dismissal sends  
us out into the world  
as Christ's Body—  
fed, nourished, and  
ready to serve.  
Worship has ended,  
and our service  
begins!*

† **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



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## Announcements from Good Soil Friday Dec 24, 2021

**For those in need of healing, comfort or strength:** Linda Beebe, Diane Bennett, Gary Dennison, Evatt Family, Barry Hollowell, Char Mattson, Joyce Miller, Mitterholzer family, Ann Norman, Jerry and Marie Sternad, Tony Sykaluk, Gloria Syverson, Jeanette Weidlich

**The flowers adorning the altar today** are given to the glory of God by members of the Good Soil faith community to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Dave and Abbie Blocksom  
Barbara Demko-Werner  
Bill Fink  
Sharon Hollowell  
Larry and Chris Jacobson

The Lanter Family  
Karen Sperli  
The Williamson Family  
Stan and Joan Zeager

**The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board outside the Lounge.** If you'd like to adorn the altar with a gift of flowers in honor or memory of someone or a special occasion, sign up for a date and please indicate your dedication and whether you want one vase or two. The cost of each vase remains at \$20 for 2022 unless special flowers are requested. You can take your flowers home at the end of the worship service.

**Contemplative Christmas Bird Walk, Wednesday, December 29 at 9 a.m.** bundle up, grab your binoculars, and head to the Beaver Marsh Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This is a very "birdy" location, with a smooth straight trail and ample parking (look for the Ira Trailhead on Riverview Road just south of Peninsula, Ohio). We'll be guided by avid birder Donna Wanamaker Fagerhaug. The organizers will try to have some "loaner" binoculars on hand if you don't have your own, and will provide a quick tutorial in using them effectively. "Tailgate" with warm beverages and snacks afterward, if weather permits. Contact Pastor Marilyn Matevia ([pastor@celebration-lutheran.org](mailto:pastor@celebration-lutheran.org)) for more information.



### Help U.S. Tornado victims through Lutheran Disaster Response

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to respond to the hurting world around us. To support disaster relief, scan the QR code to the left. 100% of your donation will go straight to helping disaster victims through Lutheran Disaster Response. Please report your donation to Good Soil for our records as well.

**Trials for Hope** is in need of the following items for their new community “Hope Box” on Bridge Ave. Please place items in the bin outside the front doors of Good Soil and Bill Fink will deliver the items to Trials for Hope. Thanks for your support of those in need in our community!

Emergency Blankets  
Socks  
Toiletries  
Handwipes

Hand and foot warmers  
Gloves  
Tampons/pads  
Books

Questions? Contact Bill Fink at [bfink06@yahoo.com](mailto:bfink06@yahoo.com) or Trials for Hope directly at [trialsforhopecl@gmail.com](mailto:trialsforhopecl@gmail.com) or 216-920-2205

**Updated Good Soil Directory coming soon.** If you’ve had any changes to your personal info (address, phone, email address, etc.) please let the office know as soon as possible.



### Last Month for 1:1 Matching Campaign for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries’ Breaking New Ground initiative:

Good Soil established an Endowment Fund, and the Council voted to designate \$10,000 as an initial contribution. Good Soil now has the opportunity to expand its impact. The Endowment Fund will match individual contributions

dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 from now through the end of 2021. This means members and friends of Good Soil can pool our collective resources to contribute as much as \$30,000 to Breaking New Ground! Use the QR code to learn more. **UPDATE: If you have contributed directly to LMM during this calendar year, please report that to the church office or Barbara Munch ([bwmunch@aol.com](mailto:bwmunch@aol.com)).** We will also be matching those donations for the 2021 year as well.

**Year-End Giving to Good Soil** For those considering an extra year-end gift to Good Soil, we want to let you know our plans for what we will do if revenue ends up exceeding expenses this year. With excess funding, we will:

- 1) Set aside funds for the expansion of our Open Doors creative outreach initiative with the front lawn
- 2) Get an earlier start on some of our Phase 2 dreams for our livestream upgrade (updated Bluetooth projector, enhanced lighting, increased sound options, etc.)

Additionally, there is a special tax advantage this year to encourage giving to charitable organizations. The CARES Act will allow those who do not itemize on their taxes to take an “above-the-line” deduction up to \$300 (single) or \$600 (filing jointly) for gifts made to charitable organizations like Good Soil. The deduction is only for gifts of cash made in calendar year 2021.

Many of you have already given more than \$300 and for that we are immensely grateful. Every gift and every giver strengthens our ministries to nurture faith, care for our community, and share God’s Good News throughout the world. Thank you for your giving!

<b>Calendar of Upcoming Events</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Sun, Dec 26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lessons and Carols Worship (in-person and livestreamed)</b></li> <li>• <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b></li> </ul>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Wed, Dec 29	Contemplative Bird Walk with Pastor Marilyn Matevia – Beaver Marsh Trail in Cuyahoga Valley Natl. Park	9:00 a.m.
<b>Sun, Jan 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In-Person and Livestream Worship</b></li> <li>• <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b></li> </ul>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>