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*Opening wide our doors and hearts  
in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior*

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**Holy Eucharist**  
**The Second Sunday After Christmas**  
**January 5, 2025 9:00 AM**

Join us in person for our service.

Or join us by going to our livestream on the St. Peter's Facebook page [here](#).

The worship leaflet can be found [here](#).

There will be a coffee hour after the mass, including our monthly breakfast.

This Sunday's Ministers:

Ms. Lenita Richard and Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Mr. Jonathan McCormick, *Lector*

Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*

Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Patty Lamb, Ms. Anita Chandler, and Mr. Robert Simmons,  
*Coffee Hour Hosts*

Music Notes for this Sunday's service can be found at the end of Key Notes.

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Dear Friends,

Oh, it has been a season of celebration, with the light and love of Christ shining in our midst. Yes, we live in challenging times, but the Good News of Christmas inspires and reminds us that in the words of the carol, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” Christ gives us hope, and the faith to conquer whatever fears we experience.

Thank you to all who have made our Advent and Christmas observances so meaningful: the Altar Guild, our Sunday ministers, our coffee hour hosts, those who donated flowers and those who arranged them, and of course, the musical gifts of Herb Taylor, Mary Sullivan, and this year, our guest soloist Michele Kennedy.

Speaking of music, we were delighted to offer St. Peter's as the venue for The Amethyst Project Singers and Amethyst Chamber Ensemble concert last Saturday. Those of us who were able to attend were transformed by their musical offerings under the leadership of Mary Sullivan, and we were pleased to welcome so many from beyond our parish to the concert. A number of first time visitors commented to me about the beauty of our building and the marvelous acoustics, both of which have been enhanced by our newly refinished floors. Those attending generously offered a total of \$537 to benefit St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry.

The concert was a superb example of who we are and who we can continue to be: a community that provides a place of particular beauty and resonance in the city of Portland, offering both parishioners and newcomers alike hospitality and experiences that transform, whether in weekly worship or in special events. What we do is vital, connecting us again and

again to all that is holy.

May you have a blessed New Year.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Tom



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## Weekly Stewardship Update: New Numbers As We Begin 2025



**As we start the new year, we are happy to report that 40 families or individuals have now pledged \$72,984.**

**Especially gratifying is that 20 families or individuals have made a pledge for the first time this year. Thank you!**

You can still make a pledge in this new year, and if you have not yet done so, please fill out a pledge form and return to church or mail to the church address. Pledge forms can be found at

## Youth Service Corps Serving Others in December

On December 15th, 17 youth from 7 churches attended our Youth Service Corps event at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. We enjoyed a festive lunch with pizza, cookies and hot cocoa, thanks to Emily Hickey, before we got to work. Later on, the Rev. Tom Mousin shared stories about the organ and stained glass windows in the nave and then showed us the secret vestments chamber. We cleaned up and then played games before dropping off our donation at Maine Needs.



It only took 15 minutes for our "elves" to package 100 warmth kits! We also divided a large collection of Legos into small baggies to give to kids when they visit the doctor. The warmth kits for Maine Needs included facial tissues, hand lotion, hand warmers, bandaids, chapstick, and a Dunkin' gift card. We learned that the gift card provides more than just a beverage or food. It also gives access to a public space to clean up, dry off and escape the cold.

At Maine Needs, we were welcomed by Jo Albanese, the Volunteer Program Manager, who was excited to see such a large donation from a group of teenagers! Founder and Executive Director, Angela Stone, was also impressed and gave us a tour of the facilities to share the evolution of the non-profit from its founding in 2019. Thanks again to St. Peter's and Maine Needs for guiding our last event of 2024!

The next Youth Service Corps gathering will be a fun afternoon of snow tubing on Sunday, January 19th at Seacoast Adventure Park in Windham, starting at 2:30 PM. See below:

## SNOW TUBING WITH YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

**SUNDAY JAN 19 2:30 - 4:30 PM**  
**SEACOAST ADVENTURE PARK**  
**930 ROOSEVELT TRAIL, WINDHAM**



**LUNCH IS NOT INCLUDED, BUT THERE'LL BE HOT COCOA!!**

**\$28 PER PERSON FOR 2 HOURS OF TUBING**

**SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE - CONTACT PETER AT  
PRIEST@TRINITYCHURCHPORTLAND.ORG**

**RSVP BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH TO AMBER  
AT AMBER@STALBANSMAINE.ORG**

**AFTER YOU RSVP, YOU'LL RECEIVE A LINK TO AN ONLINE WAIVER.  
THIS WAIVER MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PARTICIPANT  
BY TUE. JANUARY 14TH TO KEEP OUR GROUP RATE.**

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## Creation Care News

Did you know that the Episcopal Church has a Creation Care page? It is full of resources and ideas and may be accessed at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/>.

Here is the Church's mission for creation care: In Jesus, God so loved the whole world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world God loves. Concerned for the global climate emergency, drawing on diverse approaches for our diverse contexts, we commit to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation.

## Thank You Gift Givers

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, parishioners brought gifts for children to our Advent giving tree. Thank you, Anica, for organizing this mission project for our neighbors in need!



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## Carrying the Torch

We have been blessed with the gift of new torches and with younger members of our parish who have been serving as torch bearers at the Sunday mass. This Sunday morning ministry is open to all of us, however. If you think you could offer yourself to serve occasionally in this position, please speak to the rector or to our Verger, David Savage. We are always ready to welcome more participants!

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## Scenes of the Season



Advent Coffee Hour



Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass

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Christmas Eve Processional



The Amethyst Project Singers and Amethyst Chamber Ensemble at Their Concert on December 28th

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## Around the Parish

Have you ever been bothered by those little problems around the house, such as a leaky faucet that you never get around to fixing? Annoying, yet we put up with them. But what a difference when they are fixed!

Thank you to **Fred Fowler** for repairing the dripping faucet in the undercroft kitchen and thank you to **Chris Hickey** for fixing the door hinge on the door that leads from the stairs and upper hallway into the church - it now latches properly.

We appreciate your noticing these things and your repair skills!

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Thank you to all who made donations for flowers for Christmas. And thank you to **Anita Chandler**, who gave the flowers and the lighting of the sanctuary lamp last Sunday in celebration of her birthday.

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The brightness of our Christmas celebrations was enhanced by the newly refinished altar candles and one of our alms basins. Thank you to **Anne Whitman**, who saw the need, arranged for the refurbishment and whose donation made it possible.



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## Word of the Week

*A weekly note about the words Episcopalians use.*

The word of the week is **rota**.

We read the word every week in Key Notes: "The Sunday Minister Rota."

The term simply means "schedule" and refers specifically to the rotating schedule of ministers who serve each week at our mass. It is one of those words that has come to us from its use in the Church of England.

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## St. Peter's Calendar Looking Ahead

*Compline Services* Resume on Wed. January 8 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

*Merry Hearts Lunch*, Thu. Jan. 16 at noon, Undercroft

*Annual Meeting*, Sunday January 19th after the 9:00 AM Mass

*Youth Service Corps*, Sun. Jan 19 at 2:30 PM Seacoast Adventure Park

## **Compline Resumes on January 8th**

Compline will resume on Wed. January 8th at its usual time at 7:00 PM. The Zoom link is [here](#). This link is good through February 19th.

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### **Sunday Minister Rota for January**

#### **January 5**

Ms. Lenita Richard and Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Fred Fowler, *Crucifer*

Mr. Jonathan McCormick, *Lector*

Ms. Cindy Sherwood, *Usher*

Ms. Anne Whitman, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Patty Lamb, Ms. Anita Chandler, and Mr. Robert Simmons, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

#### **January 12**

Ms. Anne Whitman and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergier*

Ms. Judy Howes, *Lector*

Ms. Robert Simmons, *Usher*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Ms. Colette Desjardins and Ms. Janene Gorham, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

#### **January 19**

Ms. Emily Keniston and Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Garrett Keniston, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Vergier*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Mr. Richard Price and Mr. Paul Loven, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

## **January 26**

Mr. David Savage and Ms. Lenita Richard, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Mr. Steven Koskinen, *Crucifer*

Mr. David Savage, *Verger*

Ms. Anne Whitman, *Lector*

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, *Usher*

Mr. David Savage, *Altar Guild*

The Keniston Family, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

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## **Weekly Prayer List**

### **Prayers For Parishioners, Families, and Friends**

**Ann Marie Cady**

**Allison Schroth**

**Francisco Andreu**

**Diane Dalton**

**Dino Rice**

**Robert Stillings**

**Fred Fowler**

**Mary Ann Hoy**

**Barbara Vessey**

**Cindy Sherwood**

**Galen Weibley**

**Fred Madore**

**Peter Haskell**, *friend of Allison Schroth*

**Martha Gagliardi**, *friend of Fr. Tom*

**Tommy Valente**, *friend of Don and Ann Marie Cady*

**Jane Reiha**, *friend of Judy Howes*

**Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche**, *friends of Dino Rice*

**Marge Devine**, *family member of Allison Schroth*

**Jimmy Devine**, *family member of Allison Schroth*

**Fuji Sprott**, *friend of Dino Rice*

**David Turner**, *cousin of Craig Mousin*

**Tammy**, *friend of Craig Mousin*

**Beth**, *friend of Lee Walters*

**Pam**, *friend of Anita Chandler*

**The Kutasi Family**, *friends of Allison Schroth*

**Glenn**, *spouse of Caroline Loupe*

**Janet Blessing**, *neighbor of Jane Noone*

**Kelly Marie Bell**, *friend of Allison Schroth*

**Earle**, *friend of Cindy Sherwood*

**Grace**, *family member of Jessie Vega*

**Kay Gross**, *friend of Jane Noone*

**Lisa Gorham**, daughter of John & Janene Gorham  
**Gerald and Anita Talbot**, friends of Anita Chandler  
**Janine W.**, friend of Anita Chandler  
**John Manchester**, friend of Tom Mousin  
**Peter Munro**, brother of Emily Hickey

If you wish to add or return persons to the prayer list, please contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinators:

Allison Schroth, at: 207-807-1315  
[ASchroth@maine.rr.com](mailto:ASchroth@maine.rr.com)

or

Emma Bond at: 207-619-3662  
[emma.e.bond@gmail.com](mailto:emma.e.bond@gmail.com)

### **A Prayer for Those We Love**

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*

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## **NOTES ON THIS WEEK'S MUSIC**

Somewhat surprisingly, Bach's setting of the beloved German hymn *The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away* is tinged with sadness, reflecting, perhaps, the composer's sense of human mortality and the uncertainty of earthly life. At the same time, the work projects an element of supplication, and may be seen as an entreaty for God's mercy in the year that lies ahead.

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 into a wealthy, highly educated family. Heber himself was a bright youth, translating a complex Latin text into English at the age of seven. He entered Oxford at 17, and won two nationally-sponsored poetry awards while still an undergraduate. He was ordained into the Anglican priesthood and served for 16 years as the rector of a parish in the west of England. In 1823 he was appointed Bishop of Calcutta. He worked tirelessly, and died of a stroke at the age of 43. Many of his 57 hymns remain in use today, the most famous being "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning."

"How Bright Appears the Morning Star" was written by the

German Lutheran pastor, musician and poet Philipp Nicolai in 1599. Nicolai's somewhat bland tune was given its present rich harmonization by Johann Sebastian Bach and the text was translated into English by the Anglican clergyman/scholar William Mercer in 1859.

American clergyman John Henry Hopkins (1820-91), while a leading figure in the Episcopal church of his time, is remembered today largely as the author of "We Three Kings of Orient Are." Written in 1857, it became an almost instant hit upon its publication in 1863. Hopkins was greatly admired by President Ulysses S. Grant, and delivered the eulogy at Grant's funeral in 1885.

Most British hymn writers in the nineteenth century were clergymen, but William C. Dix ((1837-1898) was a notable exception. Trained in the business world, he became the manager of a marine insurance company in Glasgow, Scotland. A number of his texts were first published in Hymns Ancient And Modern (1861), which, with its sale of over 170 million copies, remains the single most influential hymnal ever compiled. "As With Gladness Men Of Old" was written for inclusion in this volume.

The lyrics of Christmas carols abound with instances of poetic license; nevertheless, the popular English carol I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In is something of a conundrum: Bethlehem is landlocked and the closest body of water is the Dead Sea which is twenty miles away. Not to worry: there's a simple answer. In ancient times, camels were referred to as "the ships of the desert." Since the three wise men are often depicted as riding camels--although the Bible doesn't specify their means of transport--the carol most likely refers to the epiphany and the arrival of the wise men to worship the infant Jesus.~HT

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