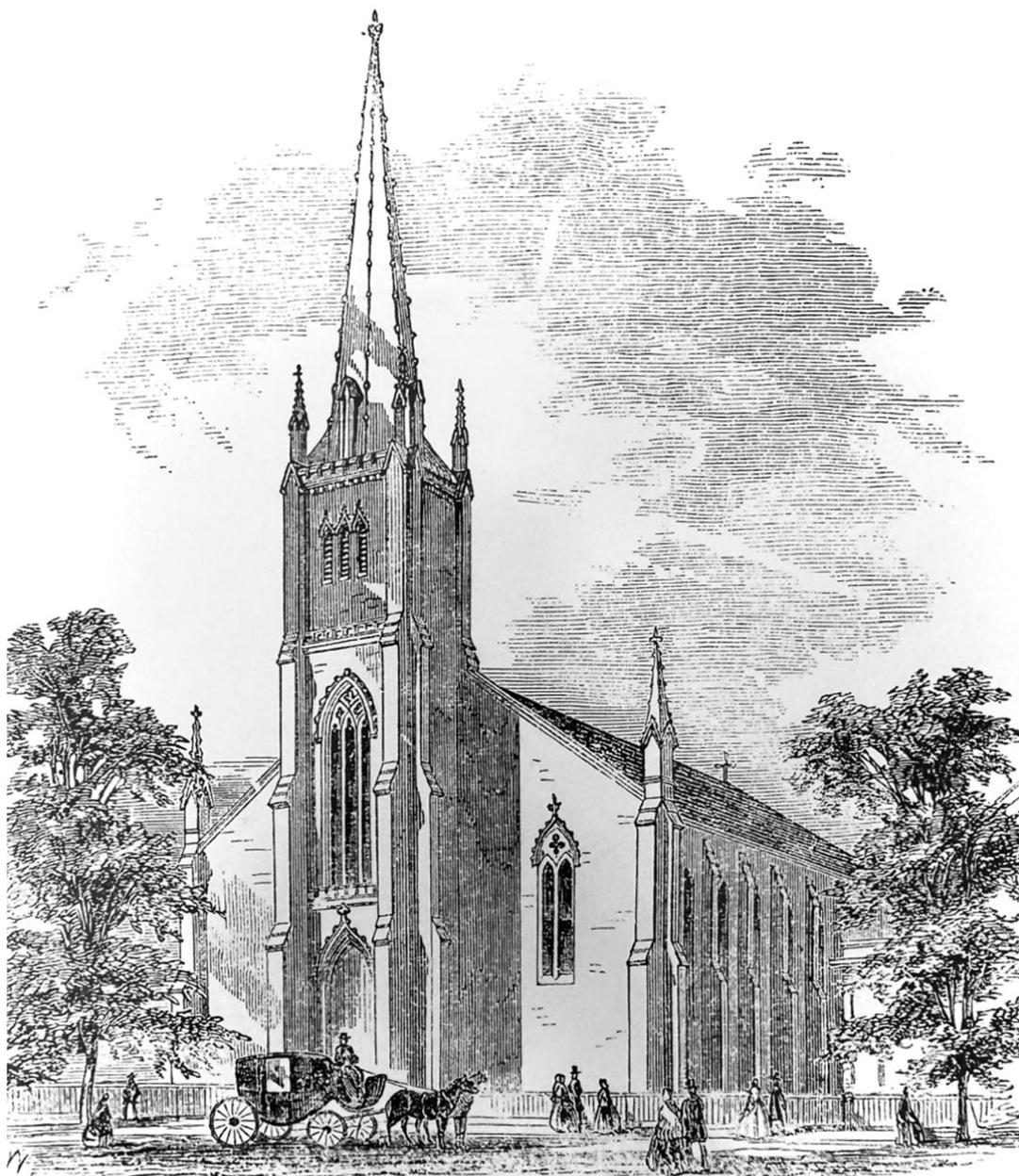


**State Street Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*A Progressive Christian Open and Affirming Church*

December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy



STATE STREET CHURCH, PORTLAND, MAINE.

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**State Street Church  
United Church of Christ  
December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy**

*Welcome to State Street Church! During the greeting the Pastor will ask if any visitors would like to be introduced. There is no pressure to be introduced, if you would like to remain quiet and be present to the service, please feel free to do so. There is a card in your pew to fill out if you'd like contact from the church. Children are welcome, but not required, to come forward during the "Time for Children," and may either return to their seats or join us for Kids' Church.*

|         |                                |                   |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Prelude | "Deck Thyself, My Soul"        | Johannes Brahms   |
|         | "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" | Johannes Brahms   |
|         | "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" | O. Nelson Russell |

Greetings, Introductions, and Announcements

\*Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ (God) be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

(Take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbors.)

A Moment of Centering Silence

\*Opening Hymn #116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL  
stanzas 1-2, 6-7

\*Call To Worship Zareen Mirza

One: Joy is the gift God gives us upon waking in the morning to see beams of sun dance in dusty corners or hear much needed rain, even on a leaky roof.

**Many: Joy is in the delight of tiny precious things.**

One: Joy is the magnificence of the Redeemer when the tests come back clear, or when a school test is finally passed, or when the spirit is tested and chooses faith over fear.

**Many: Joy is in the hands that hold our own while we sit silently and wait.**

One: Joy is the patience of Emmanuel when petty disagreement turns into great injustice and change is slow to bend towards what is right and good.

**Many: Joy is in the small actions we take each day to help righteousness and peace abound.**

\*Please rise in body or spirit

Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

**Almighty God, we seek relief from the unrest of our daily lives. You, who offer peace and justice in a single hand, are our redeemer. Allow us, God, to unfold in your palm. With each breath, allow us to inhale the power of your sacred word, and exhale the turmoil within.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Silas Plummer,  
Abigail, Fiona, and  
Norah McKimmy

We light this candle for Joy.

**All:**

**May God fill our hearts with joy, so we can share laughter, kindness, and welcome with everyone.**

A Time for Children

Reception of New Members  
Presentation

Nick Bearce  
Deborah Breault  
Barbara Burgess  
Bill Burgess  
Nicole Burnett  
Jay Lacke  
June Lacke  
Ellen Rapsher  
Bruce Rapsher  
John Stewart  
Kay Zipp

Introduction

Address

Question about Participation

Welcome and Reception

Pastor: Let the members of the State Street Church, United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be active in bringing the vision and call of Jesus to the world**

## Scripture

Psalm Reading: Psalm 146:5-10 (pew Bible pg. 644)

Christen Reading: James 5:7-10 (pew Bible pg. 249)

This Morning's Sermon

Rev. Bryan S. Breault

## A Time of Prayer

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

A Moment of Silence

Hymn #122 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" STUTTGART

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**Our Father, Mother, Parent, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Choral Response

Offering

*We are aware that some give online, or by other means, and some are unable to give. When the usher comes to your pew, you should feel comfortable looking to the usher smiling and nodding so the usher knows to move to the next person.*

Invitation

Offertory "Springs in the Desert" Arthur Jennings

\*Doxology PUER NOBIS NASITUR

**"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen."**

Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Hymn #106 "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise" MARIAS LOVSANG

\*Benediction

Benediction Response

*Everyone is welcome to coffee hour in Chapel Hall (through the door at the front left of the sanctuary) following the start of the Postlude. Those who wish to listen to the Postlude are welcome to sit in the front pews if they prefer.*

Postlude "Prelude, Fugue, and Ciaconne in C Major" Dietrich Buxtehude

This week's altar flowers were provided by  
**Rosie M. Williams**

## **LAST CHANCE**

### **To Order Your Christmas Flowers**

You can dedicate your flower(s) to a loved one or offer them in memory of people who have passed. The flowers are used to decorate the sanctuary. After Church you can take your plants home with you or leave for someone else to enjoy.

**Deadline to Order is December 15th**  
**Each Plant is \$17**

**You can order and pay online**  
**(see the weekly e-Newsletter for links)**  
**OR Email your dedication to the office**



# Christmas Flowers ORDER FORM

**Deadline to Order is December 15th  
Each Plant is \$17**

**Fill out this form, tear it off, and drop it in the offering plate.  
You can mail us a check.**

**In Honor Of:** You can dedicate your flower(s) to a loved one.

**In Memory Of:** You can offer your flower(s) in memory of people who have passed.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Your Name:</b>   |  |
| <b>How Many RED Poinsettias?</b>                              |  |
| <b>How Many WHITE Poinsettias?</b>                            |  |
| <b>Write Your Dedication(s) – In Honor Of or In Memory Of</b> |  |

The flowers are used to decorate the sanctuary. After Church you can take your plants home with you or leave for someone else to enjoy.

**Please join us in the Chapel Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshment.**

Enter through the door to the front left of the sanctuary.

State Street Church is a progressive, diverse, and tolerant congregation. We provide a spiritual home for people from all walks of life. We work toward the vision of social justice preached in the gospel but are not exclusive in our faith. We find meaning in connecting with one another to help those in need and to nurture and deepen our spiritual awareness. We don't feel a need to agree on every matter but we try to listen and learn from one another. We are wide open to, and deeply affirming of LGBTQ+ individuals. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We encourage you to continue your spiritual journey with us! We'd love to get to know you.

**Happening at State Street Church**

Sun. Dec 14 10:00am Worship Service

Mon. Dec 15 7:00pm Music Swap

Tue. Dec 16 11:00am Jane Lindquist Memorial

Wed. Dec 17 6:30pm Council Meeting

Sat. Dec 20 1:00pm Mark MacLean Memorial

Wed. Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service  
Music @ 6:30pm, Service @ 7pm

**Where you can park  
on Sunday Morning while attending  
State Street Church**

- 1. Street Parking** is free on Sunday
- 2. The Portland Club**, be sure to get a pass for your windshield from an usher!

Restrooms are to the left and right of the hall at the back of the sanctuary.

Meaningful worship requires many people working together. We are grateful to everyone who worked to make this morning's service heartfelt and sincere.

|                              |                                  |                      |                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Deacons:</b>              | Denny Barrantes and Tori Bachman | <b>Live Streamer</b> | Ginger Raspiller |
| <b>Ushers:</b>               | Katy Rand and Peg Cushman        |                      |                  |
| <b>Liturgist:</b>            | Zareen Mirza                     |                      |                  |
| <b>Fellowship Hour Host:</b> | Mary Buteyn and Margy Soule      |                      |                  |
| <b>Greeter:</b>              | Steve Conroy                     |                      |                  |

**An easy way to support State Street Church: scan the QR code with your phone!**



**State Street Church, United Church of Christ**

Reverend Bryan S. Breault, Pastor  
Kyle Bertulli, Music Director and Organist  
Kaylan Zipp, Christian Education Director  
Maryam Darjazi, Childcare Provider

