

**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church  
419 Bossardsville Road  
Stroudsburg, PA**

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**Celebrating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**January 4, 2025**

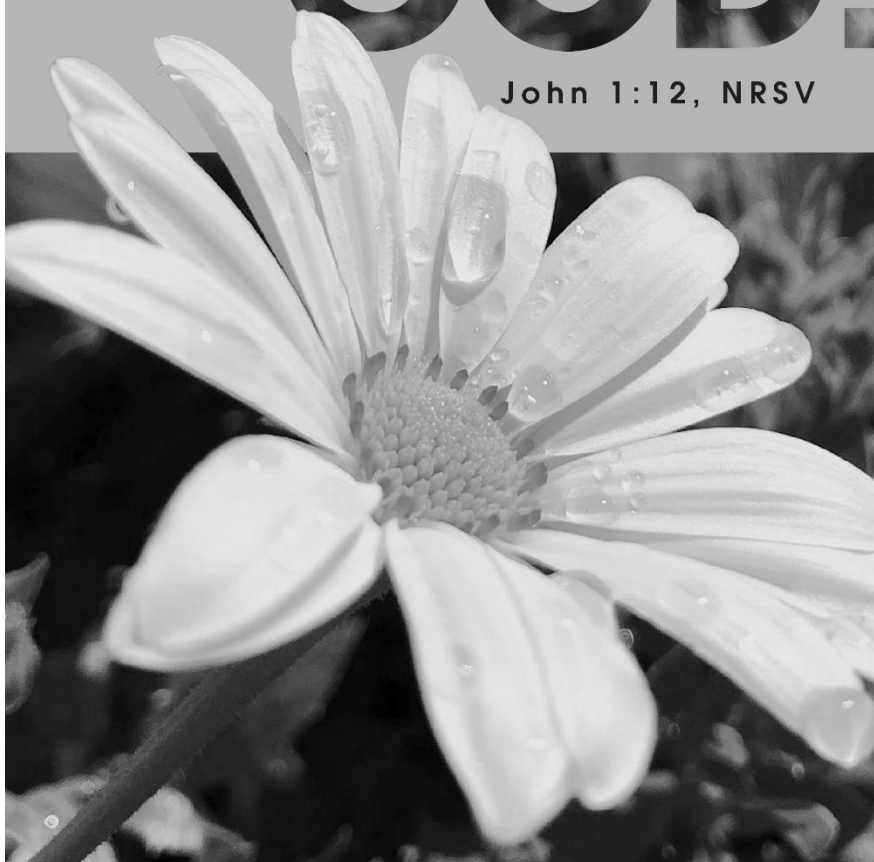
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... to all who received him, who believed in his  
name, he gave power to

*Become children of*

**GOD.**

**John 1:12, NRSV**



**Welcome to Christ Hamilton!** Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at [www.christhamilton.org](http://www.christhamilton.org). Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. At Christ Hamilton we are an intentional community of faith, gathered in worship, united in fellowship and generous in our outreach.

Please know that **all are welcome** at Christ Hamilton! If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering. Please note there are also kids kits in the back for the children to utilize during the service. **Children's church takes place in the Lighthouse until the middle hymn of the service if interested please ask an usher.**

LARGE PRINT bulletins are available and hearing assisting devices, please ask an usher if you would like one.

**Today's service:** *Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

**Altar flowers** are given in celebration of Amelia Beth's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday by her grandmother, Kathleen Hinton.

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

## SONG

## Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

## GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

# KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Minister: Let us pray. . . . Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

## **JEREMIAH 31:7-14**

Reader: A reading from the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Sung responsively.*

PSALM

Psalm 147:12-20



Cantor: Worship the Lord, | O Jerusalem;  
praise your | God, O Zion,

**All: Who has strengthened the bars | of your gates  
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

Cantor: God has established peace | on your borders  
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

**All: God sends out a command | to the earth,  
a word that runs | very swiftly.**

Cantor: God gives | snow like wool,  
scattering | frost like ashes.

**All: God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

Cantor: The Lord sends forth the | word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

**All: God declares the | word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

Cantor: The Lord has not done so to any | other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING

## EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Reader: A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Ephesians.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

<sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

John 1:10-18

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

<sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

## MESSAGE

### SONG

### In a Far Off Place



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.  
2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.  
3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the  
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each  
ra - diant star to light our way. Sum - mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,  
home-less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,  
heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.  
for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.  
to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TENTH NIGHT, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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## **NICENE CREED**

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified, who 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.**

## Prayers

Assisting Minister: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. We especially pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Steve Metzgar, Colleen Garis, and Jane Person. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day especially those we now lift to you from our hearts and from our lips . . . Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

### **PEACE**

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*The Peace is shared with one another.*

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory**

#### **What Child Is This**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Gracious God,

**All: in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Minister: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness

of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Minister:** Let us pray together with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

**All:** 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**

## **Communion**

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

*Please come forward by way of the right hand aisle, receive the bread and wine, and return by way of the left hand aisle.*

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

# While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is  
 4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to

seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the  
 seized their trou - bled mind: "Glad tid - ings of great  
 born of Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is  
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in

Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.  
 Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:  
 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."

5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
 appeared a shining throng  
 of angels praising God, who thus  
 addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,  
 and to the earth be peace;  
 good will to all from highest heav'n  
 begin and never cease!"

# Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself  
known to us.

Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
and sing of your glory.

**All: Amen**

**BLESSING**

Minister: God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you  
all the days of your life.

The hand of God protect you; the holy angels  
accompany you; and the blessing of almighty  
God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



### Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

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### Worship Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb  
Organist: Beth McElroy  
Lector:  
Lay Assistant:  
Greeters: Doug & Laura Young  
Choir Director: Tassy Gilbert  
Announcements: Amanda Balas, Office Administrator  
Videographer: Joey Marshall

**Prayer at the Rail** - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.

**Jan Birthdays:** Pastor Steve 1/2, John Young 1/3, Steve Metzgar 1/4, Colleen Garis and Jane Person 1/8, Bud Bonser 1/14, Danielle Ertle 1/18, Amanda Balas 1/21, Donna Davis 1/22, Jeff Gilbert 1/26.

**2026 Offering Envelopes** are available in the lobby of the Lighthouse. Please pick them up as soon as possible. If you would like your envelopes mailed, please email the office at [chulcsts@gmail.com](mailto:chulcsts@gmail.com).

**Pastor Steve** will begin a study on the book *Cherished Belonging*. Feel free to order the book from your favorite retailer and join the conversation! Study is tentatively starting the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please email Pastor Steve at [revclay@ptd.net](mailto:revclay@ptd.net).

**Poinsettias!** Please feel free to give any of the leftover Christmas poinsettias a home.

**Thank you** to everyone who bought a gift for a senior in need in our community. It is such a special blessing for them! Thanks also to those of you who purchased smoke alarms for the Lighthouse, we collected over \$1,000!!

**Interested in becoming a member at Christ Hamilton?** Pastor Steve will be starting a 3-session new member/refresher class for existing members in the new year. Please email the office if you are interested in joining the CHULC family! [chulcsts@gmail.com](mailto:chulcsts@gmail.com).

### **Save-the-Dates!**

January 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm Community meal in the Lighthouse

January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm the Fellowship Dinner group will be meeting at the Frogtown Tavern (formerly Cherry Creek Hideaway.).

January 31<sup>st</sup> from 10-12pm at Zion Lutheran in Brodheadsville. Local churches will be discussing how to better help the homeless in our area.

February 1<sup>st</sup> immediately after service for our annual meeting. This year there will be no potluck meal, but there will be coffee hour.

