



PRINCE OF PEACE

Love God. Love People.

December 20 – 21, 2025

Joy Renewed

Ezra 3:10-13



MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

CONTEMPORARY

SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 10:30 am

I Got Joy

Angels (Glory to God)

O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)

Go Tell It On The Mountain

CLASSIC | SUN 9:00 am

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

O Little Town of Bethlehem

FLUTES: Greensleeves Fantasia

Joy to the World

MESSAGE: **Rory Philstrom**

Communion (5:30 Saturday)

Baptisms

Tilly Hagen (Saturday 5:30)

Emilia Ertl (Sunday 10:30)

We offer prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Lois Hogue** as they grieve her death.

A Celebration of Life Service for Lois will take place on December 29.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS – popmn.org/christmas-2025/

Christmas Eve: December 24

Families: 11:00 am | 1:00 pm | 3:00 pm

Evening: 5:00 pm | 7:00 pm

Candlelight: 10:00 pm

Online: 3:00 pm | 7:00 pm

Christmas Day | December 25 | 10:00 am

Lessons & Carols | December 28 | 10:00 am

This is the only worship service the weekend of December 27-28.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Classic: Sun 9:00 am (sanctuary)

Contemporary: Sat 5:30 pm (chapel) | Sun 10:30 am (sanctuary)

Resources, livestreams, playlists and podcast links: popmn.org.

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

Kids' Christmas Program | December 21 | 12:30 pm

A joyful musical celebration of the Nativity story led by the children from POP Kids and the Praise Choir.

Engage Bible Study resumes January 6 / 7

We'll start the new year with a new time for Wednesday Engage — 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Tuesday Engage will continue to meet at 6:30 am.

POP offices closed for Christmas holiday | December 25 – 26

Please call 952-435-8102 for ministry emergencies or pastoral care on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26.

JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Thank you for your gifts for mission and ministry!



Welcome to Prince of Peace!

We are an open and affirming community, here to love God and all people.



Connect with Prince of Peace!

Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.

Paper copies of this form are available at the Connect Desk.

YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for supporting our ministry as we prepare for 2026. Any monetary year-end gifts must be made electronically or postmarked by 11:59 pm on Wednesday, December 31 for credit in this tax year.

You can make your pledge at popmn.org/give/year-end-appeal





Trust the Story | Joy | Joy Renewed

Celebration and Grief

St. Augustine once asked a piercing Christmas question: *“What does it avail me that this birth is always happening, if it does not happen in me? That it should happen in me is what matters.”* He reminds us that the mystery of Christmas is not only something we remember, but something we receive and participate in again and again.

In Ezra, when the foundation of the new temple is laid, the people erupt in sound. There is singing and shouting, cymbals and trumpets, praise echoing across the land: *“For God is good, the Lord’s steadfast love endures forever.”* And yet, woven into that celebration is also a kind of grief. The elders who remember the first temple weep aloud as they face the fullness of what has been lost and will not be again, no matter the rebuilding. Joy and sorrow rise together, so tangled that no one can tell which sound is which.

This is what renewal often sounds like.

As Christmas comes again this week, we come to a different kind of foundation laying. Christ is born once in Bethlehem, but will he be born again in us? Each year this cornerstone of Jesus comes to us, yearning to be laid in places cracked by disappointment, regret, or loss. To welcome that birth honestly means telling the truth: life has not turned out the way we hoped. We have failed. Others have failed us. Some dreams cannot be rebuilt exactly as they were.

And still... the foundation is laid.

The weeping matters. It honors what was lost. But it’s wrapped up in that joyful shout, because God is not finished. The sound that carries far away is not denial, but hope: God’s steadfast love endures forever. This new beginning does not erase the past; it redeems it.

So this Christmas, let yourself weep if you need to. Let yourself rejoice if you can. Or let both rise together. Christ is being born again, not because everything is fixed, but because God is still at work building, and rebuilding, and rebuilding as many times as it takes. And that is joy renewed.