

Seedlings 🍃: "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart?"



**The Peace of Wild Things**  
by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may  
be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great  
heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



# Holiday Concert Season Continues...



*This coming Sunday at 2 p.m. the congregation will host a concert by the Baroque String Ensemble from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. The hour-long performance includes music by Vivaldi, Bach, Handel, Corelli and Telemann performed on period instruments including harpsichord, theorbo and violone. A free will offering is welcome.*

LUX CANTORUM Chicago's premier sacred choral ensemble  
Lux Cantorum Chicago presents:

# Manifest Love

*A testament to the power of spiritual love.  
Bringing solace, hope, and warmth to the season.*

**December 13- 20, 2023**  
Virtual Performance Access  
via Online Ticket

Logos for the Illinois Arts Project and National Endowment for the Arts are visible at the bottom of the poster.

**For more information and ticket purchases,  
please visit [luxcantorum.org](http://luxcantorum.org).**



*Thank you so very much to those who offered food, decorations, and service for the reception here on Sunday evening, December 3rd, following the concert performance as well as those who were able to receive this gift of the season! Thanks also to everyone who helped to decorate the church facility for the Christmas season and set up the outdoor creche.*

**The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy Sunday**



*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."*

*Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?*

*John answered them, I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal. This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing (John 1:6-13, 19-28).*

## **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
and Christmas Eve**

**10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion  
with Children's Presentation**

**7:15 p.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion  
with String Ensemble, Handbells and  
Candlelight**



**Christmas Day  
at Ascension Lutheran Church  
400 Nuttall Road in Riverside  
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols  
with Holy Communion**  
*No liturgy here on Christmas Day.*





*If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up page is available on the bulletin board at the lower west entrance to the dining hall or you may contact the church office to place your order at 1.708.442.5250 or [office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org) . The cost per plant is \$17 and the deadline for payment and sign-up is Monday, December 18th.*

*Church office hours are Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon.*

*The Seedlings E-Newsletters are now archived on the website of the congregation. Take a look by clicking [HERE](#) .*



*For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water...  
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).*

**Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.**

**For continuing live streaming of the  
liturgy  
please click [HERE](#).**

**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for  
viewing at a later date.**



[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)

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