St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Bringing the Good News

You are Loved

There is Hope

You are Not Alone

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Whether you are returning to church after a time away or are altogether new to the faith, looking for a new church home or simply seeking a place to worship today, please know that you are welcome at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. Please do help us begin to get to know you by filling out the Visitor form on our website (scan this QR code), or you may ask an usher for a paper copy.

St. Margaret's Visitor's Card

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Christian Formation

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. Early Childhood Center

TUESDAY

7:30 a.m. Bible & Breakfast on Zoom
9:00 a.m. Early Childhood Center
12:00 pm Book Club– How We Learn to be Brave
5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. Early Childhood Center

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. Early Childhood Center
6:00 p.m. Book Study & Compline

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

WORSHIP

Regular Sunday Schedule

8 a.m. Quiet Holy Communion
9 a.m. Multi-generational & fully inclusive of children
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with organ and choir

Thursdays

6:00 p.m. Book Study & Compline

St. Margaret's Weekly e-newsletter

Scan this QR code to learn more about what's happening at St. Margaret's.

BELONG

LEAVE A NOTE FOR DEACON DEB COOPER

As the Rev. Deb Cooper transitions into retirement, we are collecting your kind words, gratitude, and encouragement for her. Please write a brief note (signing your name) on an electronic form which can be found in our weekly e-newsletter (scan QR code on left-hand page.) These messages will be collected and printed in a photo album for Deb. To be included, please take time to offer your message by December 1.

UPCOMING BISHOP'S VISIT – SIGN UP FOR CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, December 20th, Bishop John Harmon will make his annual visitation to St. Margaret's. The Bishop's visit offers a special opportunity for anyone who may wish to reaffirm their Baptismal Covenant, along with the prayers of the Bishop, by participating in the Sacrament of Confirmation, or by being Received into the Episcopal Church. If this opportunity interests you, please email the Rev. Mary Vano at mvano@stmargaretschurh.org by **December 1st.**

LEARN

FAITH AT HOME: ADVENT

There are a number of Advent resources – information on St. Nicholas' Feast Day, a booklet of ideas for faith at home activities, devotionals, calendars, wreath prayers – for children, teens, families, and adults on the hallway table outside of the Sanctuary. Please explore and take these with you to develop your faith at home. Feel free to pick up extra copies to share with a friend as well. See the newsletter for additional ways to explore the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday, November 29th and prepares us for the coming of Christ.

BOOK CLUB READS *HOW WE LEARN TO BE BRAVE*

Tuesdays, 12:00 - 1:00pm, December 1 – January 19 (off Dec. 29), Parish Hall

This Advent, St. Margaret's Book Club will explore *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde, the Bishop of Washington. Within, Bishop Budde will account her own struggle to be brave, teaching readers that being brave is not a singular occurrence but a journey we can choose to undertake every day as we encounter life's pivot points where we're called to push past our fears to act with strength. Weaving together personal experiences with stories from scripture, history, and pop culture, Bishop Budde underscores both the universality of these decisive moments and the particular call each one of us must heed when they arrive. On December 1, come prepared to explore the introduction and first chapter. Purchase a copy using the link in our weekly e-newsletter (scan QR code on left-hand page) or from your preferred bookstore. Email mmiller@stmargaretschurch.org to request a free copy.

You can also join the book club virtually! Email mmiller@stmargaretschurch.org for the zoom link.

SERVE

YOUR 2027 PLEDGE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Vestry is actively working on the 2027 budget, with hopes that additional pledges and increased giving will help us meet some of our goals. Thanks to generous and ongoing giving to the capital campaign, we anticipate that our construction loan will be paid off within the next year! This is exciting news because it means we have already reduced the interest payments we have been making, and we'll have more room in the budget to invest in ministry. Where there is room for growth, priorities include adding a youth minister to support our growing youth community, and pay raises to support our hard-working staff. Every pledge received makes a difference, and we are grateful to all who will give to support these needs! If you haven't made your pledge yet there is still time!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ART DE-INSTALLATION

The Icons in Transformation exhibit will be packed up and transferred to its next exhibit at St. Paul's in Fayetteville. Volunteers are needed starting Monday, November 30, and each day through Saturday, December 5th. Artist Ludmila Pawlowska and her husband Jan Lech will be with us to guide our efforts. We need your help, so please sign up to volunteer when you can using the link in our weekly e-newsletter (scan QR code on left-hand page) or on the sheet in the hallway by the stairs. Thank you!

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

St. Margaret's is once again supporting some of the children in our backpack program this Christmas with gifts from an Angel Tree. We are asking for a pair of shoes, pack of socks and a toy. Each child has information to aid in the gift purchase. There will be angel tags on a tree in the hallway to the sanctuary with a child's name and wish list. Take an angel from the tree, put your name on the list next to the number of the angel you have chosen and place an angel ornament on the tree in its place. The counselors need to be able to see our gifts, so please do not wrap them.

****All items must be delivered to the church by Sunday, December 13th**. Please include your name with the gifts to assist us with matching the sign up.

If you prefer to let one of our volunteers do the shopping for you, you can make a financial donation using the link in our weekly e-newsletter (scan QR on left-hand page.) Please indicate "Angel Tree" in the memo line. Thank you for helping make Christmas brighter for these children!

The text of our worship comes from the *Book of Common Prayer*, where the service for Holy Eucharist, Rite II, begins on p. 355.

Hymns will be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982*.

When the text of this worship booklet is in bold, it is spoken or sung by all.

The Presider's posture (sitting, standing, or kneeling) may serve as a cue, but you are invited to participate as able and comfortable.

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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II 9:00 A.M.

WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN: O come, O come, Emmanuel Hymnal, 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**
shall come to you, O Israel.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living one.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day BCP p. 211

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down! Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence. When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked before you. From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him! You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for your ways. But you were angry when we sinned; you hid yourself when we did wrong. We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag. All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away. No one calls on your name; no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin. But now, Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. Don't rage so fiercely, Lord; don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on your people, all of us:
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

During the singing the children gather at the front for the reading of the Gospel and the Sermon.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: O come, O come, Emmanuel Hymnal, 56

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in its ways to go.
Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**
shall come to you, O Israel.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

"In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven. "Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. "But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE: O come, O come, Emmanuel Hymnal, 56

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

THE SERMON

Please use this space to engage with the Lessons and Sermon by taking notes or doodling your response.

Join us in prayer for those in our community throughout the week. You can find the St. Margaret's prayer list here:

St. Margaret's Prayer List

To add someone to the prayer list fill out a request form on our website at stmargaretschurch.org/worship/request-prayer.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid, we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for St. Margaret's and for the Church around the world. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor Come to your world as King for the nations. We pray for Donald, our President, Sarah, our Governor, and Frank, our Mayor. Before you rulers will stand in silence.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for all those we name now…

Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember those who have died, especially those we name at this time…

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Intercessor Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with Margaret and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

People **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Minister and People

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord

Birthdays and Anniversaries

During the offertory, you may place your offering in the alms basin, or make an electronic gift by texting STMARGARETS to 72356. Alternatively, scan this QR code to take you to the online giving form. Thank you for your offering!

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: Taste and see *James E. Moore, Jr.*
Refrain **Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**
Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.
Verses sung by Cantor

All we have and all we are is of God, and everyone has a faithful offering to make. All gifts received today will support St. Margaret's ministries and empower our service to the community.

Offerings of non-perishable food for the Backpack ministry may be placed in the basket on the left hand side of the sanctuary entrance, under the usher's table.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B BCP p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then the Celebrant proceeds
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

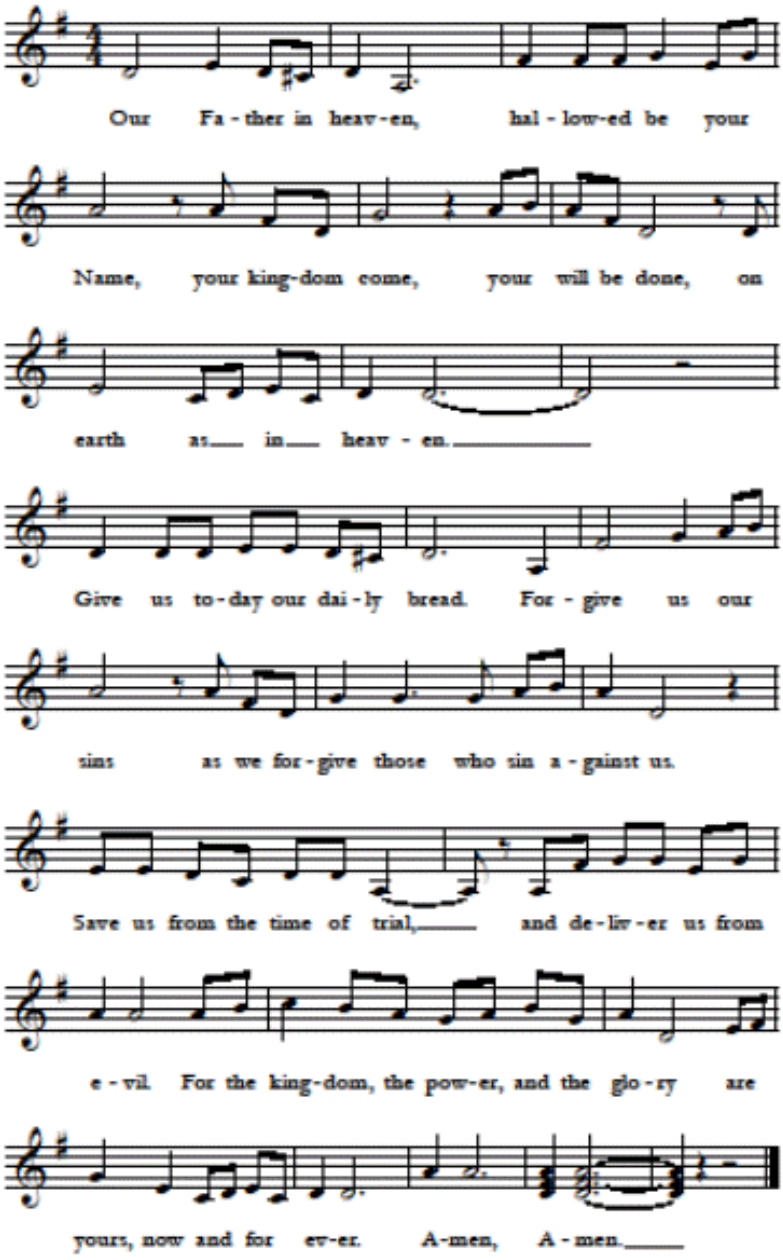
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Margaret and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,



THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

All are invited to receive Communion, or to come forward for a blessing.

To receive the sacrament, come forward to the rail, kneel or stand as you prefer, and extend your hands to receive the bread. Notify the priest at the rail if you need a gluten-free wafer.

To receive the wine, please help the chalice bearer guide the cup to your lips.

If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer you a prayer.

For those who find it easier to remain in your seat, please signal an usher, and communion will be brought to you.

THE SENDING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER BCP p. 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE CLOSING HYMN: He is the Lord

He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.
Repeat

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

ST. MARGARET'S PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2026

FOR ST. MARGARET'S MINISTRIES
Men's Group

FOR OUR SEMINARIAN
Heidi Sohl

FOR THOSE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY
02 Skip Cochran
02 Johnnie Minor
03 Maria McKay
04 Lisa Yocum
05 Debbie Blanks
05 Amanda McKay

FOR THOSE EXPECTING A CHILD
Zach & Natalee Nelson
Thomas Alexander & Lillian Hardaway
Sean & Brooke Alexander

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED
Skip Hillegas
Ward Hillegas' brother

FOR TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS
Given by Jim & Cynda Ramsay.

FOR THE CHURCH
Sean Rowe
our Presiding Bishop;
John Harmon,
our Diocesan Bishop;
Mary Vano,
our Rector;
Michaelene Miller,
our Associate Rector;
All Episcopal Churches in
the Diocese of Arkansas
St. Francis House and its ministries
Camp Mitchell

FOR THOSE IN NEED
John Allison
Judy Bethea
Blake
Jim Bradberry
Catherine Wood Burton
Mary Burton
Cherece & Chris
Rhonda Davis
Ed
Steve Foti
Suzanne Kirchner
Ron Kirchner
Tom & Roberta Monson
Neville & family
Dale Orr
Harvey Owens
Valerie Smith
Connor Spriggs
Barry Thomason & family
Matthew Thornton
Paul Thornton
Martin Walter
Whitney

FOR OUR CHURCH STAFF
Kris Alexander
Director of Children's Ministries & the Early Childhood Center
Elizabeth Connery
Lay Minister to Newcomers & Business Administrator
Colby Dillion
Lay Minister for Evangelism
Amy House
Lay Minister of Technology
Jamie Joheim
Music Director
Katherine Strother
Assistant to the Rector

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Mary Vano
Music Director	Jamie Joheim
Acolytes	*Crucifer* – Meredith Joheim
	Torch Bearers – Sydney Adams & Greyson Bucko
Altar Guild	
LEMs	
Lector	Leah Dalton
Ushers	Dee Sadler
Greeters	Jackie Keller & Mary Willmuth
Communion Bread	Annette Magie
Altar Flowers	Patricia Donnelley, Joan Gill & Jackie Keller
LEV	Johnnie Minor

If you're interested in serving in worship in one of these roles, email admin@stmargaretschurch.org to get connected.

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