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 @ 11:00 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.

This service is livestreamed and recorded on St. Margaret's YouTube Channel, as we welcome those who are unable to join us in person. The camera is in the back of the room and focuses primarily on the altar, pulpit, and lectern. Members of the congregation may appear on video.

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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II 11:00 A.M.

VOLUNTARY

WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN: Lo! He comes with clouds descending Hymnal, 57

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION BCP p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SONG OF PRAISE: Hymnal, S-96

Lord, have mercy. *(Sung twice)*
Christ, have mercy. *(Sung twice)*
Lord, have mercy. *(Sung three times)*

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

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Read responsively by whole verse*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

17 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN: Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding Hymnal, 59

THE GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

THE SERMON

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

THE NICENE CREED BCP p. 358

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

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 _____ and 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

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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.**

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.

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 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

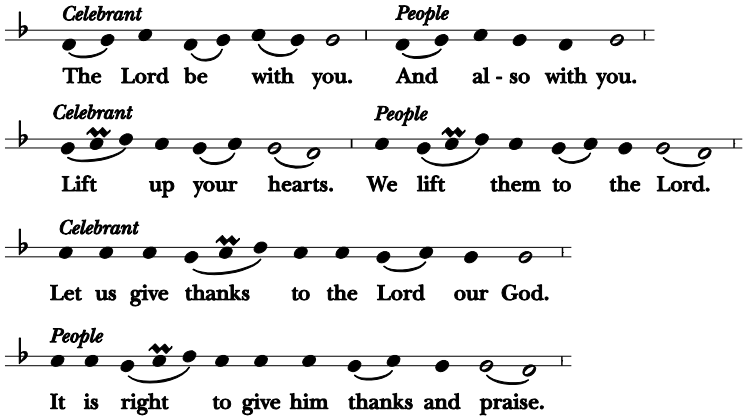
Birthdays and Anniversaries

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *arr. Price*

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!

PRESENTATION HYMN: O come, O come, Emmanual vs. 1-2 Hymnal, 56

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B BCP p. 367



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 Sanctus Hymnal, S-130

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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM: Agnus Dei Hymnal, S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God : have mercy upon us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy upon us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE COMMUNION HYMN: Once He came in blessing Hymnal, 53

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: Singing songs of expectations Hymnal, 527

THE DISMISSAL

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

VOLUNTARY

You are invited to join us after service to visit and enjoy the hospitality snacks and coffee provided by the Daughters of the King at the coffee bar in the hallway past the Welcome Center.

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
Acolyte	Ruby Harrison
Altar Guild	
LEMs	Lisa Yocum
Lectors	*1st Lesson & Psalm* – Boyd Hutchins
	2nd Lesson & Intercessions – Mary Waldo
Ushers	Catherine Ditamore & Mark Magie
Greeters	Bev Eckert, Johnnie Minor & Rahab Reasoner
Communion Bread	Annette Magie
Hosted Hospitality	St. Virginia Chapter of the DoK
Camera Operator	Amy House
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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