

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

December 7, 2025-Advent 2

"Prepare the way
for the Lord!"

Matthew 3:1-12



***“St. Bartholomew’s mission is to glorify God guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ
and through the power of the Holy Spirit
to be a beacon of hope and light in our community.”***

Prelude Glory Be to the Lord..... Godwin Sadoh

Opening Hymn #76 (1982) On Jordan's Bank

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 Gloria (BCP 356)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect for the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down

together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- ¹ Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
² That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
⁴ He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
¹⁹ And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Romans 15:4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gradual Hymn Celebration) # 244 (Celebration) Come Thou Long Expected Jesus 1 before and 2 after the Gospel *Please rise in body and/or spirit*

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Sermon

Rev. Cathie

Choir Anthem

Wait! Watch!David Lantz III

The Doxology (The Offering) (BCP 380 Verse 3)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Nicene Creed

**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 –*Additions to the Book of Common Prayer*

We pray for the church, for all Christians everywhere, for Carlye our bishop, for Cathie our Rector, and for all in our parish. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

Gracious God, may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love and help us to show your love to others. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

God of love, we pray for all people, for places where there is war or famine. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

God our creator, help everyone to share all the good gifts that you have given to us. May those who lead the nations of the world be given wisdom. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

God of all we pray for our community and for all who live and work in this area. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

God our friend, we pray for our families and friends. May we be able to help each other just as you love and help us. We pray for those in need, for sick people, for those in the hospital, and for those with any other problems. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

Compassionate God, give your strength and healing to all those who are sad, lonely, or sick. And bless all those who try and help them. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

God of Care we remember all those who have died, we thank you that not even death can separate us from your love. We pray for all who mourn, that they may feel your care for them. We pray for the families of all those who lost their lives when Pearl Harbor was attacked 84 years ago today. We pray for Daniel Sklenar-Rev. Cathie's Uncle. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

God of love we pray for ourselves - all that we will do this week, and all those we will meet. Loving God, we give this week into your hands. Be with us in all that we will do, may we enjoy this week and learn and grow in it. **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

Let us pray for those on our Parish Prayer List

Prayer for Those With Disabilities

Lord, we ask that you would make your love known to our neighbors with disabilities. Would they see themselves as you see them made in Your image. We pray for fruitful and deep relationships and friendships that would not only encourage them as individuals but would also point them to You and Your truth. God, we pray that Your Church would be hospitable to every person who comes through its doors. Would you equip people with the knowledge and skills to properly support our neighbors who are disabled—and would those neighbors be surrounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually in such a way that they feel truly loved and cared for.

www.hfny.org

A moment of silence

Clergy: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

Clergy: 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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II (BCP 367) Remain Standing

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever 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.

Be Seated or Kneel

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 Bartholomew 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 forever. *AMEN.*

And now as our Savior Christ taught us we are bold to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]*

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Since we cannot all receive communion in person together, let us make an act of spiritual communion.

People: Grant, Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your Body, so may our souls be fed and healed by like faith in you, whom we cannot now all sacramentally receive. We ask this through your tender mercy, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Holy Eucharist Music Here, O My Lord, I See Thee

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray our prayer after communion.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Praise & Thanksgiving-

THE BLESSING

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus, fill your hearts, souls and minds; may the power of God which upheld them, strengthen you for each day; and may the love of God which directed their every action be your guiding light and your shining star, both now and forevermore **Amen**

Dismissal Go in peace to Love and Serve the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn #59 (1982) Hark A Thrilling Voice Verses 1,3,5

Postlude Trumpet Tune on "WACHET AUF"Martha Soband

Prayer List-December 7, 2025

Virginia, Joan, Allan, Audrey, Evelyn, Rich, Rakesh, Sherri, Don, Kathleen, Nancy, Margie, Susan, Cindy, Ava, Toby, Joseph, Tom, Mile, Ben, Terry, Banita, Marialyse, Ashley, Julie, Diane, Judy, Kevin, Banita, Ken, Mike, Jimmy, Carol, Teddy, Craig, John, Mariah, John, Bonnie, Trista, Bob, Bo, Mark, Beata, Bob, Alicia, Ryan, Lois, Tom, Trish, Lucas, Casey, Jimmy, Maddie, Amy, Ruben

For our nation that we may heal and join together.
For our President and Vice President and all Elected Officials.

For all families suffering from the loss of a loved one.
Prayers for those who are suffering through any type of illness and those who care for them.

We pray for those suffering in our country and around the world.
We pray for those whose lives are forever changed because of senseless gun violence.
We pray for the people that have suffered damage and loss from wars and natural disasters.

We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine
We pray for peace between all nations; we pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia.
We pray for all God's creatures and for the love they give to us.

Our Wardens, Vestry, All Ministry Teams,
and all Parish members needing prayer.

Please remember in your prayers the friends and families of our parishioners and neighbors who are serving in the military:

Bobby, USA, Nicholas, USMC, Miles, USA, Adam, USCG, Matthew, USAF

For a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant _____ as he/she begins another year. Grant that he/she may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen his/her trust in your goodness all the days of his/her life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For an Anniversary

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Opening Hymn #76 (1982 Hymnal)

**1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**2 Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
a home where such a mighty guest may come.**

**3 For thou are our salvation Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand
and bid the fallen sinner stand,
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**5 All praise eternal Son to thee,
whose advent thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Gradual Hymn #244 (Celebration Hymnal)

**1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;**

**by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Closing Hymn #59 (1982 Hymnal) Verses 1,3,5

1. Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:

**"Christ is nigh!" it seems to say,
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"**

**3. Lo! the Lamb, so long-expected,
Comes with pardon down from Heav'n;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiv'n.**

**5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit,
While unending ages run.**

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant-Rev. Dr. Cathie Sklenar-Studwell

Music Director-Soon Yeon Chung

Lector-Catherine Fatony

Eucharistic Ministers- Catherine Fatony

Usher-Kathy Gabrielle

Tech Verger- Mike Egbert & Jay Studwell

Finance-Michael Gnerre

Video Director-Kathy Gabrielle

Hospitality- Our Christmas Party 3-6pm at our church home (Rectory)

201-444-5025

<https://www.facebook.com/70Sheridan>

<https://www.instagram.com/stbartshhk>

[St. Bartholomew's YouTube](#)



To watch on Facebook, go to the church Facebook page, [Like it and Follow It.](#)



To watch on YouTube, go to the church YouTube channel, and [Subscribe.](#)

The Week Ahead at St. Bartholomew's

Office hours this week **Tuesday & Friday** 10:30-1:30

Wednesday & Thursday 11:00-1:00

Additional hours are available by appointment.

Monday-Friday Morning Prayer **9:15-9:45am**

via Conference Call (339) 209-6277

Save The Date

December 7- **Angel Tree Gifts** are due at church

December 7-**Children's Advent Study** after worship

December 7-**Christmas Party** 3-6pm

December 14-**Ornament Decorating** with Susan Steele

December 24-**Christmas Eve Worship** 4:00pm

December 24-**Christmas Eve Prayers** 11:00pm Zoom

December 25-**Christmas Day Worship** 10:00am

Please remember St. Bartholomew's in your giving.

Checks can be mailed or taken to church. Donations can be made via on-line giving.

www.stbartshhk.com/pledge-donate





Decorate a Christmas ornament for yourself or for a gift. During coffee hour on December 14th Susan Steele will lead a class in decorating ornaments. Join in the holiday fun!

Welcome To Bart's closet



Bart's closet will offer fall and winter clothes and gently used toys to those in need. If you have books you would like to donate please speak to Rev. Cathie

Mid-Week Healing Service



Join us for music,
meditation, healing prayers
and Holy Communion.

**Wednesday,
December 10 11:00am**

Family Breakfast

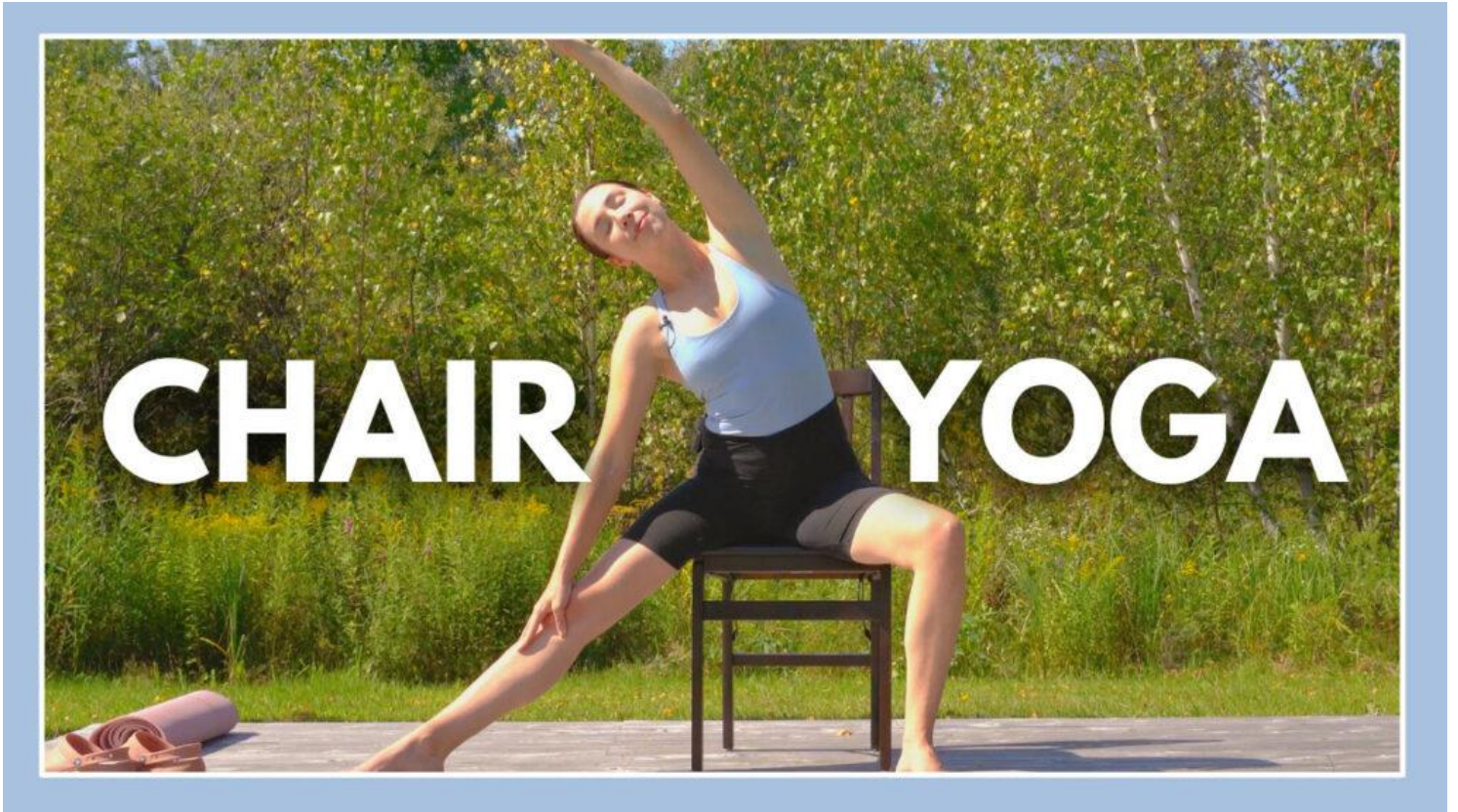


Come and be with us as we share
a meal and the joy of fellowship.

January 27, 2025

We gather together at 9:00am

Chair Yoga for Christians



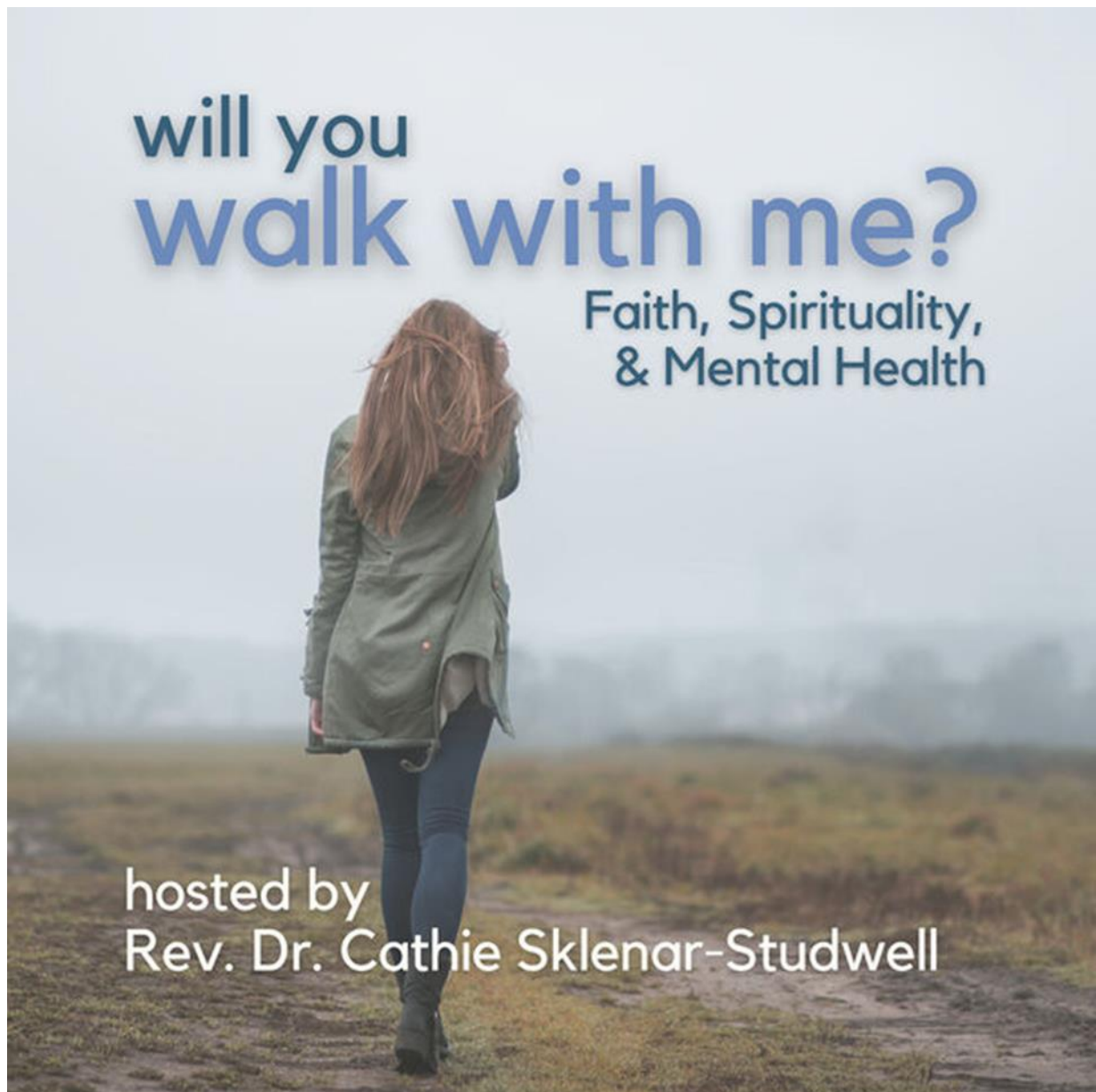
Come and experience time with Jesus as we hear scripture, pray, and move our bodies.

The yoga studio is in our rectory.

Tuesday- December 9, 10:30am

Thursday- December 11, 7:15pm

Friday-December 12, 10:30am



You can listen to the podcast on
<https://podcast.willyouwalkwithme.com>