

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we draw near to the mystery and joy of Christmas, my heart is full of deep gratitude for each of you. Over the past year, you have shown Christ's love in so many generous and grace-filled ways — through your welcome of newcomers, your care for those in need, your steadfast commitment to worship and ministry, and your willingness to walk together in faith even when the path has been uncertain. Your kindness and generosity has been a witness to the Gospel and a blessing to our community.

We began this year with a huge challenge, replacing the AC units in our Parish Hall and rising insurance premiums pushing us into a budget deficit for 2025. Many of you generously responded both with funds to replace the unit, and with faithfulness to bolster your giving throughout the year to help us close that budget gap. While our parish hall is once again buzzing with constant activity, with people across our community appreciating the welcoming environment, our budget deficit remains. We are entering into the final days of our budget year, and a year-end gift would help. Can you help us move into 2026 with renewed confidence that we can continue to serve our community in all the many ways we feel called. Your gift could come in church through the offering plate, online through our website, or by calling Cindy in the Church office to make other arrangements.

In this holy season, we gather once more at the manger — to wonder, to worship, to rejoice in the God who comes near. The birth of Jesus reminds us that light shines brightest in the darkness, that hope arrives just when we need it most, and that God's love for us is unending and true. As we look ahead to the coming year, I feel a hopeful expectation rising in our parish life. There are new opportunities emerging, new ministries growing, new ways for us to serve. I am excited for what God is shaping among us — and I am grateful that we get to continue this journey side by side.

May your Christmas be filled with peace, with the warmth of family and friends, and with the joy of knowing that Christ is born for you. And may the New Year bring renewal, courage, and abundant grace as we seek to follow Jesus together.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the privilege of serving as your priest. I am truly thankful for each of you, and I am praying that the blessings of God's presence will surround you in the days to come.

With love and blessings in the name of the newborn King,

Peace+

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Kidd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Kidd" clearly distinguishable.

The Very Rev. Stephen Kidd, Rector