

ORDER OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast

Liturgist: Pat Nash

PRELUDE:

CHIMING THE HOUR

GREETINGS Psalm 118 says: **This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. Visitors, please sign the attendance registers located in each row.**

Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the response.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: **My soul magnifies the Lord,**

People: **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** God of hope, You call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join You in Your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 133 "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*" ADESTE FIDELES

***CALL TO CONFESSION** If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves. Let us confess our sins before Almighty God.

Let us pray together

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, as we draw closer to the miracle of Christmas, let us not forget those who are in need of our help. At times we cannot see the suffering in our midst, the dire position of people right before our eyes. We see only what we want to see and in doing so miss Your call to service. Help us to see clearly what lies near at hand and to understand the opportunity to serve You in our community and world. Forgive us when we fail to help those who need us most. (Say – "**Please pray silently,**" and after about 20 seconds, say, **Amen**), Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Brothers and sisters in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

You may be seated. It is now time to light the Advent Wreath. Would (_ & _) please come forward as we sing vs. 3 of your bulletin insert.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

You may be seated.

A TIME FOR YOUTH At this time would our youth please come forward.

Please bow your heads for our Prayer for Illumination

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones You proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe Your advent promise that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and sighing will be no more and the journey of God's people will be joy. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS Our New Testament Lesson comes from **Philippians 4:4-7**, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 198 of the New Testament

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Our Old Testament Lesson comes from **Isaiah 12:2-6** you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 641-642 of the Old Testament

Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The choir will now sing the Anthem:

ANTHEM: *“Light of the World”*

GOSPEL LESSON Our Gospel Lesson comes from Luke 3:7-18, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 60 of the New Testament

Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹Even 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.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Janet Boyanton

Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:

***HYMN** No. 144 *“In the Bleak Midwinter”* CRANHAM

Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.

***AFFIRMATION** The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 581 *“Glory Be to the Father”* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, amen.

You may be seated, and now I would like to bring you a Minute for Mission

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pat Nash

ANNOUNCEMENTS **It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY **And now it is time for our Prayer Concerns and Celebrations. Does anybody have anything they would like to share?**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

OFFERTORY: *“Go to Him in Bethlehem”*

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 606 **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

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. Amen.

Let us come to God with our prayer of Thanksgiving

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of joy and exultation, You strengthen the weak; You enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in Your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

Our last Hymn today is:

*** HYMN** No. 118 “*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*” CHRISTMAS

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 88 “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” chorus VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE:**

***Those who are able may stand.**

CCLI License # 2679691

Please join us for refreshments
in the Opportunity Corner

Daily Bread

Supplement

DeSoto Presbyterian Church www.desotopresbyterian.org

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THANK YOU FOR DECORATING THE CHURCH

I want to thank the following for helping me decorate the Church inside and outside for Advent/Christmas on November 30th: Lorrinda Alexander; Bill and Lori Gast; Gene and Jewell Knox; Jessica Zinn and Cindy Ballou, as well as those who helped on November 26th during our Faith in Action meeting, including Elizabeth Price.

Pat Nash, Faith in Action Committee

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

We will once again be obtaining poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board located next to the Opportunity Corner. The price is \$10 each, and the last day to sign up is December 10th. You may take home your plant(s) following the Christmas Eve service that begins at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th.

Pat Nash, Faith in Action Committee

JOY GIFT AND ANGEL TREE

As we normally do, we will be collecting donations for our annual **Joy Offering** on Sunday, December 22nd. Please note on your checks or giving envelopes the phrase "Joy Offering." These gifts that we send to Grace Presbytery are shared equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Also on December 22nd, we will be accepting donations for the **Angel Tree** (located on the tables in the Opportunity Corner). These donations will go toward purchasing items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog (samples of which are also on the tables). We normally like to use the funds for buying chickens and water projects, as those seem to be the most useful. Again, please note on your check or giving envelope the phrase "Angel Tree."

Thank you in advance for your generosity in fulfilling God's direction to provide for the hungry and for those needing assistance.

Pat Nash, Faith in Action Committee

PLEDGING NEEDS

We have received very few pledges to date. This makes preparing a budget to cover our church needs very problematic. Please consider making a pledge (letters, cards and envelopes are located on the Narthex table at the back of the sanctuary.)

Pat Nash, Administration Committee

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

We are having a Christmas Cookie Exchange following the worship service on December 22nd. Please bring your favorite cookies (homemade or store bought) on December 22nd and we will get to share our favorites with one another.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY

11:00 AM Tuesday Morning Group – Christmas Lunch

THURSDAY

10:00 AM Art Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Adult Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship Service

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Joe and Lorrinda Alexander

Thomas Alexander – please continue to pray

Jim Glander

Martha Brashear – continued prayers

The church and nation of Ukraine

Makia's people in Cameroon

DeSoto Food Pantry

Max Jewell is at home, but needs our continued prayers as he is still recovering

Chikezie is very weak

Christians in Pakistan

Janet

The Israel-Hamas War

Prayers for those who are hungry and without clean drinking water

People all over the world are hungry, not just for food, but for the word of God.

Travel mercies for all our members and friends traveling during the holiday

Johanna Fleener had knee replacement surgery

Martha Brashear is home from the hospital but needs our prayers

Travel mercies for Steve and Alice Anne Perry

CELEBRATIONS

It's Janet's birthday