

ORDER OF WORSHIP

2ND Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast
Liturgist: Thomas Boyanton

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 Assurance of Pardon

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: **The birth of Christ draws nearer.**

People: **We look for the birth of a King!**

All: **Let us worship God.**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** God of Advent cheer us on our way as we prepare for the birth of Your Son. We experience the thrill of Your mighty acts as we celebrate Christ's birth year after year. Never let us lose sight of the reason for our joy as we embrace this Christmas season. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 143 "*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*" REGENT SQUARE

***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

Loving God, we sometimes lose sight of You amid the tinsel and twinkling lights of Christmas decorations. We get lost in shopping, wrapping presents, and preparing food. Amid those tasks Jesus becomes lost. Our minds are too crowded to fit Him in. Forgive us when we let the secular Christmas overshadow the sacred. Let the birth of the Christ child be foremost in our minds throughout the Christmas season. (Say – "**Please pray silently,**" and after about 20 seconds, say,) **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. Now would (It's either going to be Hiedi and Ivan or Okoro and Ogbeyalu. If the Kalu's are here, use them.) **please come forward as the congregation sings vs. 2 of your insert**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Congregation sings vs. 2 of insert

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 God please illuminate Your word that it may light a fire of conviction in each of us. Let Your light shine through us on the whole community. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Malachi 3:1-4 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 889-890 of the Old Testament

Malachi 3:1-4

3See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

1st GOSPEL LESSON Our 1st Gospel Lesson comes from Luke 1:68-79, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 58 of the New Testament

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The choir will now sing the Anthem:

ANTHEM: *“We Gather Together”*

2ND GOSPEL LESSON Our 2nd Gospel Lesson comes from Luke 3:1-6, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 60 of the New Testament

Luke 3:1-6

3In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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. 96 “*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*” WINCHESTER NEW

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.

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: “*Advent Grace*”

***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**

Lord, hear our prayer of thanksgiving. We are grateful for the bounty You provide us, for the gift of family and friends. We are most grateful for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who was born to redeem us. Jesus walked among humanity as one of us and, knowing our failings, died for our salvation. There is no greater gift. As we celebrate Christmas never let us forget Your gift of Grace to all people. Amen.

Our last Hymn today is:

*** HYMN** No. 132 "*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*" IN DULCI JUBILO

***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

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY

10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Group – Write Christmas Cards

THURSDAY

10:00 AM Art Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 3rd 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