

Potsdam United Methodist Church



*First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2023*

First Sunday in Advent – December 3, 2023

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available

*Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* arr. Gilbert M. Martin

As the candles are lit, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: The Lord will fulfill all the promises given to God's people.

P: Praise be to God.

L: The days are coming when all shall be revealed.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: The signs of God's Good News are all around us.

P: The darkness has overshadowed them.

L: God will bring to us a new light for all generations.

P: Open our eyes, Lord, to see your promises fulfilled. AMEN.

***HYMN** **I want to Walk as a Child of the Light** **UMH #206**

PRAISE TO GOD - Lighting the First Candle of Advent: PROPHETS

Reader: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader: Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name for God.

People: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.

Reader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

***ADVENT HYMN** **Star Child** **TFWS #2095, verse 1**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

L: "The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today.

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG

CHOIR ANTHEM

... AND A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD

GOD'S WORD – 1st READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

GOD'S WORD – 2nd READING

Romans 13:11-14

GOD'S WORD – THE GOSPELS

Matthew 24:36-44

Key verse: Matthew 24:44 - "[Jesus says] Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

L: The word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE Rev. Heidi Chamberlain Managing Un-expectations

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

UMH #730

THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE/ THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Words for the *Lord's Prayer* can be found UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel" arr. John Sciveyner

*THE DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
we bring our gifts to you, O God.

Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit,
and a joyful heart. AMEN

A SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH #221

BENEDICTION

L: The good news of Advent is this:
Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

P: We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We will go forth from this place in expectation.

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2016

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

**Rejoice in the light Jesus brings to
your life today... and forever!**

**Spread the Good News and invite
others to worship God with us.**

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **First Sunday in Advent & Communion Sunday:** December 3rd with formal coffee hour following worship.
- **Potsdam Holiday Fund Set-up:** Sunday, December 3rd, 12:30pm, entire basement.
- **Potsdam Holiday Fund Prepping:** December 4th-16th all day, every day, entire basement.
- **CheeryOs:** Tuesday, December 12th, 11:30am. Bring your lunch, beverages are provided.
- **Blue Christmas Service:** December 13th 6:00 pm, For those who grieve and those who love them.
- **A North Country Christmas:** Josh Barkley in Concert December 18th at 6:00 pm ~ Free Admission.

Worship Participants	
Microphone: Norm Gardner	Acolyte: Rebecca Clements
Counters 12/3: Robin Howard, TBA 12/10: Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Readers 12/3: Nancy Matthews 12/10: Trish Lewis
Greeters/Ushers 12/3: Carrie Livernois 12/10: Fish Family	Fellowship Time Hosts 12/3: Carol Willmert 1/7: Caroline Potter & Olga Virgil

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Choir Director: Warren Potter ♦ Organist: Deborah Nikkari

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours [Parsonage Office]: **Monday 3:00 – 5:00 pm; Tuesday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Church office: 315-265-7474 ♦ email: info@potsdamumc.org

Pastor Heidi pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>