

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023

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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

He Shall Feed His Flock

G. F. Handel

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

INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: It's time to get ready for the journey.

P: **Where are we going?**

L: We are heading for the Manger and then to the Cross.

P: **What will we find?**

L: Today we will find peace, along with hope

P: **We are ready. Let the journey begin. AMEN**

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH #196

PRAISE TO GOD - Lighting the Second Candle of Advent: SHEPHERDS

Reader: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:8-10).

Reader: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

Leader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

***ADVENT HYMN**

Star Child

TFWS #2095, verse 2

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning,
we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk
in the light of Christ. AMEN

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 11:1-10

GOD'S WORD – 2nd READING

Romans 15:4-13

GOD'S WORD – THE GOSPELS

Matthew 3:1-12

Key verse: Matthew 3:2 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

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

P: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE Rev. Heidi Chamberlain We Work While We Wait

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Blessed Be The God of Israel

UMH #209

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 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Raymond H. Haan

*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

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH #218

BENEDICTION

P: Jesus said, "I bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world
would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever."

L: Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you. Peace be with you and with all whom you love. Go now into God's world with God's peace in your hearts and lives. Go in hope and peace. **AMEN**

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

POSTLUDE *O Thou of God the Father* Choral Prelude J. S. Bach

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

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

- **Potsdam Holiday Fund:** 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 6:00pm, for those who grieve and those who love them.
- **Christmas Caroling:** At Midtown Apartments, Sunday, December 17th, following Worship.
- **A North Country Christmas - Josh Barkley in Concert:** Monday, December 18th at 6:00pm ~ Free Admission.
- **Church Council Meeting:** Tuesday, December 19th, 3:45pm.
- **December 24th:** Morning Worship at 11am "Instant Christmas Pageant".
- **December 24th:** Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6pm.

Worship Participants	
Microphone: Norm Gardner Acolyte: Rebecca Clements	Advent Wreath Dec 10: Jeremie, Ashley, Jordan & Ben Dec 17: Sharon, Kathy D.
Counters Dec 10: Debby, Robin Dec 17: Debby, Tom	Readers Dec 10: Trish Dec 17: Sharon
Greeters/Ushers Dec 10: Fish Family Dec 17: Kathy D.	Fellowship Time Hosts Jan 7: Caroline Potter & Olga Virgil Feb 4: Effa Sullivan

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>