



We Are Family!

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

Potsdam United Methodist Church

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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

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

arr. Wilbur Held

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

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Through the birth of Christ ...

P: ... **God stands with us.**

L: Through the raising of Christ by Mary and Joseph ...

P: ... **God shows faith in us.**

L: We are all family in Christ, and with Christ.

All: Hallelujah! AMEN!

*HYMN

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

*PRAISE TO GOD - Relighting the Christ Candle

L: With this lighting of the Christ Candle we rejoice with prophets, angels, and Mary and Joseph in welcoming Christ!

P: **Our hope has arrived!**

L: Thank you God, for sending us your Son.

All: Let this fire remind us that the Lord is already here.

Help us, O God, to live for Jesus and shine with his love.

As we renew our covenant with you,

help us keep Jesus at the center of our lives.

Hope is here. Love is here. Family, is here. AMEN

*ADVENT HYMN

"Star-Child"

TFWS #2095

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & ILLUMINATION

L: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago.

P: Come to us, Lord Jesus,
Be born in us this season, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.
May the light of your life be kindled in us,
and lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen!

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG **CHOIR ANTHEM**
... AND A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD

GOD'S WORD – THE EPISTLES Hebrews 2:10-18
GOD'S WORD – THE GOSPELS Matthew 2:13-23

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING: **UMH # 217 – 255**
Christmas hymns by request

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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 *Joy, Joy, Joy* 17th century carol arr. Hugo Jungst

***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** **Angels We Have Heard on High** **UMH #238, vs 1&4**

***BENEDICTION**

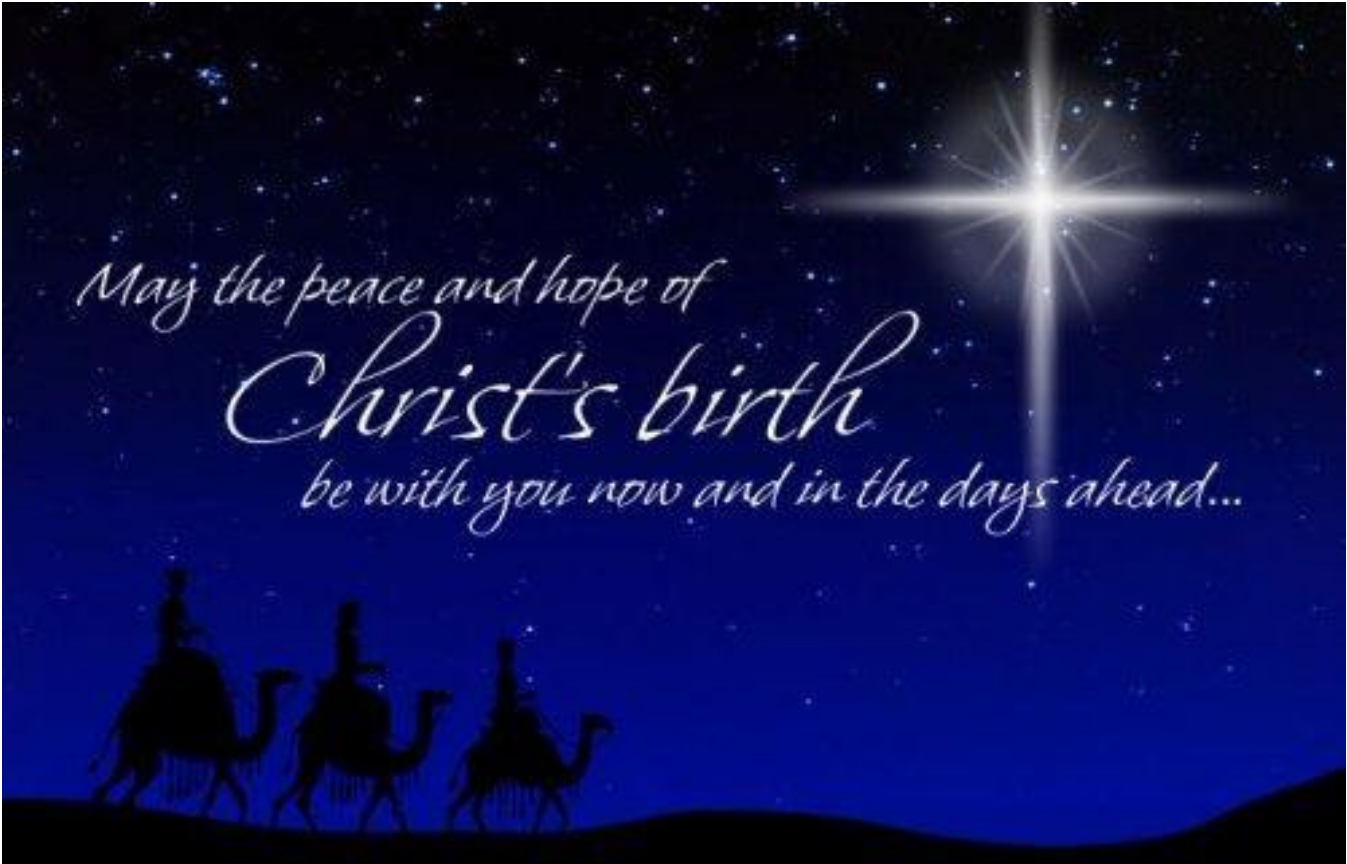
L: The good news of Christmas is this: Christ has come. Christ has come.

P: We welcome Christ into our hearts.
We let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We go forth from this place seeking him in all that we do.

POSTLUDE *Ding, Dong Merrily We Sing* Thoint Arbeau arr. James Pethel

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

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Un-decorating and Pizza Party:** January 14th, following worship
- **NCPPC MLK Day Event:** January 15th, 6:30pm - tile room
- **Church Council Meeting:** January 24th, 6pm - online
- **Worship Team Meeting:** January 31st, 6pm - online

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner	Acolyte: Rebecca Clements
Counters 1/31: Tom O., Carrie L. 1/7: Robin Howard, TBA	Readers 1/31: Rebecca Clements 1/7: Nancy Matthews
Greeters/Ushers 1/31: Carol Willmert 1/7: Carrie Livernois	Fellowship Time Hosts 1/7: Caroline Potter & Olga Virgil 2/4: Effa Sullivan

Worship Led today by Tom Ortmeyer

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>