

# *Potsdam United Methodist Church*



*First Sunday of Advent*  
*November 30, 2025*

# First Sunday of Advent~ November 23, 2025

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.

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated; regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

## WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

### ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRELUDE

*Southern Sketches by Florence B. Price*

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

#### INTROIT

*We've a Story to Tell to the Nations* [UMH #569 Verses 1,2 and 4]

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather this morning as a people waiting for the Lord.

P: **The one who died, rose, and will come again.**

L: Yes, this is the truth, and the great mystery of our faith!

P: **Yes! Lord Jesus, come into our hearts again this Advent Season**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

All: Everlasting God, we confess that we haven't been watching.

We haven't been looking out for you.

Like a thief in the night, you could pass us by and we would never know.

We have forgotten to look for you in the faces of our children,

of the homeless around us, in the immigrants who struggle as they serve even us. Forgive us, we pray, and make us ready to greet you in everyone we see on the street

as we leave this place. AMEN

#### \*HYMN

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

UMH #221

PRAISE TO GOD - Lighting the Candle of Expectation: *Up to Restoration*

#### HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

UMH #211, vs 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

*We Wait for Thee by Victor C. Johnson*

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!  
GOD’S WORD - THE OLD TESTAMENT & EPISTLE      Isaiah 2:1-5  
Romans 13:11-14  
GOD’S WORD – THE GOSPEL      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.”

THE MESSAGE      Make Room      Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

THE PRAYER OF GOD’S PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (UMH #270)

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

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC      *Though Deepening Trials* by George Careless  
arr. by Dale McAllister

\*THE DOXOLOGY      Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow      UMH #94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\*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

COMMUNION HYMN      *[Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus– UMH #196]*

**GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus      UMH #196, vs 1

*Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set your people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

\*THE 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.

POSTLUDE      *The Wind's Improvisation* by Yoshinao Nakata

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

# THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK



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

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from MinistryMatters.com ©2022

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES

- **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- **Super Church - Sunday School:** Will be held December 7th and December 21st.
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** usually meets at the Parsonage the first Thursday of each month, 2-4pm. The next meeting is **December 11th**. **Please note this is a change from our originally planned date.**
- **Elf and Cookies:** December 6th, from 1:00-3:00pm. Public event for children and their grown-ups. There is a signup sheet on the piano if you would like to help by baking cookies. Contact Kathy Demo (315-212-9283) if you would like to volunteer at this event.
- **Celebration Sunday December 7th:** A special day, our church’s stewardship day, when we celebrate by pledging our giving for 2026. Our hearts focus on God’s blessings and our hopes for the church’s ongoing community outreach. After worship, we will share in a celebration luncheon in Fellowship Hall.
- **Potsdam Holiday Fund:** Setup Sunday, December 7th, 2:00pm, use of the entire basement, December 8th-20th all day everyday.
- **Cherry'Os:** will meet Tuesday, December 9th. We will meet at church at 11:30. Cookies and beverages will be provided. Please bring your lunch if you would like.
- **A Journey Through Grief:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm, Fellowship Hall. Next meeting, December 11th.
- **Blue Christmas Service:** For those who grieve and those who love them. Dec. 17th, 6pm.
- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:** December 24th, 7pm.

### Worship Participants

<b>Microphone:</b> Norm Gardner		<b>Acolytes:</b> Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
<b>Counters</b>		<b>Readers</b>	
Nov. 30:	Christa Carroll, Robin Howard	Nov. 30:	Kathy Demo
Dec. 7:	Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll	Dec. 7:	Nancy Matthews
Dec. 14:	Carrie Livernois, Tom Ortmeyer	Dec. 14:	Christa Carroll
Dec. 21:	Robin Howard, Debby Nikkari	Dec. 21:	Collen Gondo
Dec. 24:	Christa Carroll, Carrie Livernois	Dec. 24:	Tom Ortmeyer
Dec. 28:	Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Dec. 28:	Sharon Hutchinson
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>		<b>Fellowship Time Hosts</b>	
Nov. 30:	Robin Howard, Judy Haer	Nov 23:	Pizza Party (Greening the Church)
Dec. 7:	Nancy Matthews	Dec. 7:	Ashley Fish and Family
Dec. 14:	Kathy Demo	Jan. 4:	Robin Howard & Judy Haer
Dec. 21:	Carrie Livernois	Jan. 11:	Pizza Party (Un-Greening the Church)
Dec. 24:	Norm Gardner	Feb. 1:	Carol Willmert
Dec. 28:	Robin Howard, Judy Haer	March 1:	Carrie Livernois

**Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain**

**Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen**

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

Pastor’s Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: [pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org](mailto:pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org) ♦ Church email: [info@potsdamumc.org](mailto:info@potsdamumc.org)

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If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) - <https://tinyurl.com/2s3mtnr5>