

# *Potsdam United Methodist Church*



*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*December 14, 2025*

# Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 14, 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

*Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel* Arr. Natalyn Rodriguez

*As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer*

#### INTROIT

**People Look East** [UMH 202 VS 1&4]

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Together, let us be a people unafraid to embrace joy!

P: **Christ comes to us in the unexpected!**

L: Let us keep the faith together – that Christ will come again.

P: **Lord, keep us on the straight and narrow path that leads to you!**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

All: Our Lord and Our Joy, we know that we often fail you. We forget to watch. We forget to wait. We make the holiday season more about ourselves than sharing the hope that only you can bring. We get so caught up in what we're supposed to get this season, we forget what we're called to give. Help us to remember that this season is about the message and ministry of your son, Jesus Christ, the one who came to heal, liberate, and share the good news of your faithful love. Call us to be faithful only to you this season. **AMEN**

#### \*HYMN

**Angels From the Realms of Glory**

**UMH #220, vss. 1 & 2**

PRAISE TO GOD - Lighting the Candle of Proclamation: *The Lord's Highway*

#### HYMN

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**UMH #211, vs 3**

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

L: Though the darkness seems so deep, do not fear. God is with us. Repent! Turn your lives to God. God's love is being poured out for you, always.

### THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

#### CHOIR ANTHEM

***Beyond Christmas, by Alfred V. Fedak***

### ... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

GOD'S WORD - THE OLD TESTAMENT & EPISTLE

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

**HYMN**

**Prepare the Way of the Lord**

**UMH #207**

**GOD'S WORD – THE GOSPEL**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

Key verse: Matthew 11:33 – [John in prison asks]

"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

**THE MESSAGE**

**Hope in the King**

**Rev. Heidi Chamberlain**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*HYMN**

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**UMH #224**

**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**

*Where Can I Turn for Peace?* By Joleen G. Meredith  
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**

**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 celebration, sharing our joy!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Christmastime is here* by Vince Guaraldi

*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.
- **Christmas Purse:** If you wish to contribute to this gift for our pastor and staff, please give your donations to **Marsha today**, so that she can distribute them on Sunday, December 21st. If you would like to put your donation in the Offering Plate, please clearly mark it as **Christmas Purse**.
- **Potsdam Holiday Fund:** Use of the entire basement, Dec. 8th-20th all day everyday.
- **Super Church - Sunday School:** December 21st.
- **Blue Christmas Service:** For those who grieve and those who love them. December. 17th, 6pm.
- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:** December 24th, 7pm.
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** meets at the Parsonage, the next meeting is January 8th, 2-4pm.
- **A Journey Through Grief:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm, Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is January 8th.

| Worship Participants     |                                   |                                 |                                      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Microphone: Norm Gardner |                                   | Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish |                                      |
| Counters                 |                                   | Readers                         |                                      |
| 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                    |
| Greeters/Ushers          |                                   | Fellowship Time Hosts           |                                      |
| 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)

Website: [www.potsdamumc.org](http://www.potsdamumc.org) ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](#) - <https://tinyurl.com/2s3mntnr5>