

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

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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.

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 Dec. 14: Carrie Livernois, Tom Ortmeyer Dec. 21: Robin Howard, Debby Nikkari Dec. 24: Christa Carroll, Carrie Livernois Dec. 28: Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard	Readers Dec. 14: Christa Carroll Dec. 21: Collen Gondo Dec. 24: Tom Ortmeyer Dec. 28: Sharon Hutchinson
Greeters/Ushers Dec. 14: Kathy Demo Dec. 21: Carrie Livernois Dec. 24: Norm Gardner Dec. 28: Robin Howard, Judy Haer	Fellowship Time Hosts Jan. 4: Robin Howard & Judy Haer Jan. 11: Pizza Party (Un-Greening the Church) Feb. 1: Carol Willmert 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 ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: 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/2s3mtnr5>