

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 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, Holy Night, arr. Polly Bekasova

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

INTROIT

Jesus! The Name High Over All [UMH #193 vss. 5 & 6]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: With Joy we call Emmanuel down to meet us this morning!

P: Christ be with us!

L: Through the birth of Christ, we know God's love for us.

P: Thanks be to God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

All: God of our salvation and author of our hope, it's hard for us to see the blessings you have for us. We think that our plans are better, that the things and desires of the world are higher than your ways. You, Lord, are the great interrupter and sometimes we can feel inconvenienced by the calls you put on us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Remind us that this season that leads to Christmas wouldn't be here at all if it weren't for you loving this world that you made. Thank you for loving us, God. AMEN

*HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

UMH #216

PRAISE TO GOD - Lighting the Candle of Anticipation: *Give You a Sign*

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH #211, vs 4

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

Christmas Song, Arranged by Gustav Holst

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

GOD'S WORD - THE OLD TESTAMENT & EPISTLE

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

GOD’S WORD – THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Key verse: Matthew 1:20 - "But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

If you want God to laugh, tell God your plan!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

That Boy-Child of Mary

*HYMN

UMH #241

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

Picture a Christmas by Patricia Kelsea Graham,
arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

*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 love!

POSTLUDE

O Tannenbaum traditional, arr. 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:** We will be taking a break on 12/24, 12/31, & 01/07 from meeting at Jernabi’s Coffee House. We will resume The Good Cup on 01/14/2026. See you soon!
- **Christmas Purse:** If you did not have a chance to contribute to this gift for our pastor and staff, please give your donations to Marsha today, so that she can distribute them on Christmas Eve.
- **Super Church - Sunday School:** Today, Dec. 21st, Jan. 11th and 25th.
- **Christmas Caroling at Maplewood Nursing Home:** Potsdam Interfaith Community member congregations have been invited by the Catholic Church to join them for this event after worship this Sunday at 2:00 pm.
- **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. 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. 21:	Carrie Livernois	Jan. 4:	Robin Howard & Judy Haer
Dec. 24:	Norm Gardner	Jan. 11:	Pizza Party (Un-Greening the Church)
Dec. 28:	Robin Howard, Judy Haer	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://www.paypal.com) - <https://tinyurl.com/2s3mtnr5>