

ROCK PRAIRIE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Sunday, December 14, 2025*  
*10:30 a.m.*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*



*8605 East County Road A*  
*Janesville, WI 53546*  
*(608) 752-1172*  
*office@rockprairiechurch.org*  
*Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones*

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

### PRELUDE

DELIGHT ANTOS, ORGAN  
SYLVIA O'CONNOR, PIANO

*"The First Noel" | Trad., Smith & Hustad*

*"What Child Is This?" | English, Smith & Hustad*

*"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" | Willis, Smith & Hustad*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SINGING OF CAROLS

SYLVIA O'CONNOR

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful" | 193 HFG*

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem" | 178 HFG*

*"We Three Kings of Orient Are" | 206 HFG*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP –

ISAIAH 11, MATTHEW 3

One: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation.

**All: We seek the fullness of God to nourish our hearts and minds.**

One: John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

**All: Christ came to change us with peace and joy in our hearts.**

One: We long to be filled with the finest bread, the Bread of Life.

**All: And to joyfully drink from the cup of salvation.**

One: We come to renew our commitment to be faithful disciples.

**All: We worship Lord our God who brings us peace and joy.**

### \*ADVENT SONG

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" [83, vs. 3 - below] //GG*

**"Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring."**

### \*HYMN

*"Prepare the Way, O Zion"*

[Insert] //GG

## THE CHURCH CONFESSES AND SEEKS ASSURANCE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

MATTHEW 3

### THE NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW 3:1-6

JOHN THE BAPTIST PROCLAIMS

*John the Baptist preached repentance in the wilderness of Judea because the kingdom of heaven was near. His ministry fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah, where*

*a voice cries out to "Prepare the way of the Lord." He preached a message of repentance, a spiritual and moral turning away from sin, because the kingdom of heaven is at hand. People from all over the region, including Jerusalem, came to be baptized by John after confessing their sins.*

In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

#### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

MATTHEW 3, LUKE 1

**God of Peace, the temptations of the world keep us in the darkness of the winter season. We desire more and more, even as it draws further from the true path of peace. We wander in the wilderness, where peace and joy elude us as we seek our own way, instead of Christ's way. Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

#### TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AND EXAMINATION

Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life.

**Forgive us, as we seek your peace. By your mercy, lead us away from darkness into light, the light of joy. Help us, your servants, according to your eternal promises that bring joy to our lives. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

PSALM 130

One: The joy-filled news of Advent is that Christ brings an abundant grace to our lives. I declare to you, in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free.

**All: Thanks be to Christ, who grants us hope, peace, and joy. In Christ, we are forgiven and know the joy of the Lord.**

#### PASSING THE PEACE

**\*RESPONSE** "Lord, Be Glorified"

[2150] \*\*SF

**In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.**

**In Your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In Your church, Lord, be glorified today.**

## **THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

#### **THE OLD TESTAMENT**

GENESIS 3:1-7

RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF ONE COMING

*In the beginning, God created perfection. Then came the serpent's temptation and the fall of humanity. The cunning serpent deceived Eve into disobeying God's command by twisting God's Word to suggest that God was withholding something good. Eve ate the fruit, shared it with Adam, and the couple realized their nakedness with shame. This event ushered in sin, separation from God.*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

#### **KIDS KIRK**

*"Away In The Manger" [185 vs. 3]*

GAIL WOLFE

Children are invited to come up to the front chancel as we sing.

***"Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there."***

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"Prepare the Way of the Lord" | William Rowan*

CHOIR

#### **THE OLD TESTAMENT**

ISAIAH 55:1-5

INVITATION TO ABUNDANT LIFE

*God invites everyone to accept His free offer of salvation, which provides true and lasting satisfaction that cannot be found in worldly pursuits. The water, wine, and food to describe this abundant spiritual provision, urging listeners to*

*come to God, who is the only one that can satisfy their deepest needs. It is a message of hope and new life, contrasting the emptiness of striving for things that do not nourish the soul.*

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON**      *"Gifts for The Common Good"*

REV. DR. BRUCE A. JONES

### **THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

RPPC MISSION STATEMENT

**Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church,  
a welcoming, loving faith family,  
who worships the Lord and serves others.**

**\*HYMN**      *"You Satisfy The Hungry Heart"*

[Insert] //GG

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

One: The Lord is here.

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give .... Together, we joyfully sing with the choirs of angels...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven  
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, we gather ... great banquet filled with the complete joy of the Lord.

**Unite us with Christ, as one body, that we may  
remain faithful in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (MALOTTE)**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**MOMENT FOR MISSION**

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

**RICK FABER**

**INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE**

**\*RESPONSE**

*"As With Gladness Men of Old"*

*[202, vs. 3] +HFG*

*As they offered gifts most rare, At that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ,  
to thee, our heav'nly King.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ISAIAH 55**

**Heavenly Father, joyfully we thank You for your abundant gifts shared  
with us. We respond with joy-filled hearts with our tithes and offerings.  
We present our gifts, given freely, to support your work in our church  
and beyond in our community. Thank You for inviting us to be the Body  
of Christ by the Holy Spirit to share your grace throughout the world. In  
Jesus' name, Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

*[169] +HFG*

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**DELIGHT ANTOS, ORGAN  
SYLVIA O'CONNOR, PIANO**

*"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" | Mendelsson, Smith & Hustad*

*\* Please stand if you are able*

## **WORSHIP GUIDE**

### **Bold text said in unison**

\* Please stand if you are able.

// GG - *Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal*

+ HFG – *Hymns for the Family of God*

\*\*SF – *Sing the Faith*, small blue hymnal

- Audio enhancements, larger print Bibles and bulletins,  
children's resources are available at the table in the sanctuary.

- CCLI church license 1555479, and One License A-73845

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## **STAFF**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Bruce A. Jones

**Director of Music:** Krista Jones

**Piano/Organ Accompanist:** Sylvia O'Connor

**Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper:** Sandi Fogle

**Office Assistant:** Jessica Wellnitz

**Nursery Coordinator:** Angela Tyson

**Nursery Assistant:** Emily Kleinheinz

**Audio/Video Technician:** Matthew Blija

**Church Caretaker:** Michael Blija

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## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Greeters:** Martha Johnson & Jean Paszkiet

**Ushers:** Karen & Rich Johnston

**Liturgist:** Sandi Fogle

**Kids Kirk:** Gail Wolfe

**Communion Servers:** Bill Albright, Delight Antos, Russ Antos  
Nicole Barlass, Katie Blija, Tom & Kathy Peterson  
Jeri Torpy, Jessica Wellnitz, Tom Wolfe

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**\*\*Please remember to wear your name tags\*\***

If you do not have one, notify the office and we will  
have one made for you.

# **THIS WEEK AT RPPC**

## **Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am ~ Bible Study

6:30pm ~ Session Meeting

## **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:30pm ~ Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

6:00pm ~ Children's PJ Party  
(Dress Rehearsal)

## **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **Children's Christmas Program**

9:15am ~ Children's Sunday School

9:15am ~ Adult Sunday School

9:15am ~ Book Study

10:30am ~ Worship

11:45am ~ Mission Committee  
Meeting

**Pastoral Care:** If pastoral care needs arise, please call Rev. Bruce Jones at 608-205-7428 to assist you with emotional, social, and spiritual support. If you or a family member are admitted to the hospital, the best practice if you would like a pastoral visit, is to call Rev. Bruce instead of expecting the hospital staff to call the church office. Please do not hesitate to call at any time of day or night for pastoral emergencies.



**If you are visiting or seeking a church home,** we invite you to explore all that happens in the life and ministry of this church. Speak to our pastor or someone next to you for more information.

Children are always welcome in worship.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided in the nursery.

### **Connect with us!**

(608) 752-1172

*www.rockprairiechurch.org*

*office@rockprairiechurch.org*

*Facebook: Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church*