

United Methodist Church (587-9544)

North Rose, New York

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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PRELUDE "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" Hayes

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

*(Please pass the Fellowship Folders to those seated next to you.)*

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 9: 6

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*"Peace be with you." "And also with you."*

\*HYMNS OF PRAISE

"Welcome to Our World" "That Boy-Child of Mary"

*( \* invites all who are able to stand to praise God)*

SILENT PRAYER/PRAAYER BOX PLACED ON ALTAR

OPENING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 34: 11-16 p. 744

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Ember Hilkert, Noah, Abby, Ella

SONG "Advent Song" *(back of hymnal—verse 4)*

This is the Sunday before Christmas. It is only a short time until Jesus' birthday. Let's think about the ways we have given love to others during this Advent season.

Today we place the wise men by the manger scene.

They gave their love and gifts to Jesus, and they traveled from far away to visit him. They show us that Jesus came to help the rich and the wise, as well as the poor and humble.

Each of the candles of the Advent wreath remind us of something. The first is that Jesus is the light of the world.

The second candle tells us about Mary and Joseph and their love.

The third candle is for the shepherds who visited Jesus.

And the fourth candle is for the wise men who brought him gifts.

*(Light the four outer candles.)*

Let us pray: God, help us to give to others as the wise men gave to Jesus... and show us new ways to share love during this special season. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM                                    *"Children, Go Where I Send You"*                                    Jr. Choir

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

\*HYMN                                    *"Away in a Manger"*                                    p. 217

*(Afterwards, kids age 3 through Grade 5 are welcome to go to J4J.)*

SHARING OUR JOYS & PRAYER CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM                                    *"Rejoice! Christ Is Born"*                                    Shackley

OFFERTORY PRAYER

MESSAGE                                    *"The Light of Love"*

\*HYMN                                    *"The First Noel"*                                    p. 245 (vs. 1 & 2)

\*PRAYER OF BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE                                    *"Mary Had a Baby"*                                    Wagner

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We heartily welcome all visitors here this morning and hope you will return to worship with us again! Please sign the guest book by the front door.

Please keep the following people in your prayers during the coming week: Larry Kyle & Lisa Phillips, Eve, Lea; Jack & Kathy LaBrake; Bill & Nicole Lainhart, Nyla.

The Christmas Poinsettias on the altar today are in loving memory of Robert S. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Sidler, and Howard & Mildred Sidler, by Nina S. Johnson and Susan Darling.

**FAITH HOME:** Each week we will be listing an activity that you can enjoy as a family to help us all grow in faith. Set up a family nativity scene, or draw pictures of the stable at Bethlehem the night Jesus was born and hang them up in your home.

Do you enjoy Christmas caroling? This evening from 6:00-7:30 p.m., we will walk through the village singing at homes and then return to the church for cookies & hot chocolate. Kids & adults are welcome! Please bring a flashlight

with you.

Our worship theme during these weeks of Advent has been "Advent Candles." Each week, we have focused on the traditional meaning of the candles in the Advent wreath: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. This year, Pastor Dan's Christmas gift for your family is a Christmas tree ornament which depicts the four Advent candles. Please pick one up in the back of the church.

Thursday evening, we will have three **Candlelight Christmas Eve Services**. During each service, the story of Jesus' birth will be told through scripture, anthems, drama, and favorite carols. Pastor Dan will preach on "Christmas Gifts." Each service will end with candle lighting and the singing of "Silent Night."

**5:30 p.m.** will be a family service featuring the Junior Choir & Bell Ringers, with our J4J Sunday School kids presenting the nativity drama. Child care provided.

**8:00 p.m.** Chancel Choir & Adult Handbell Choir & Soloists. Child care provided. Everyone is welcome to light small candles in the front of the sanctuary in memory of loved ones.

**11:00 p.m.** will include a Christmas Choir, soloist Noah Barnes, and Adult Bellringers. There will also be an opportunity to light candles in memory of a loved one or friend.

Next Sunday, we will receive our monthly **Mission Bank** offering. This offering helps support the work of missionaries: Olga Gonzalez is the director of the Westside Urban Mission in Syracuse and is responsible for outreach to the children & youth of this poverty-stricken neighborhood. Dr. Mark Zimmerman is the director of the Nick Simons Institute for Rural Health in Nepal.

We will celebrate College Student Sunday Sun. January 3 at 10:30 a.m., with our college students participating in worship. The message will be "The Light of Faith" with scripture from Matthew 2: 1-11. Following the service, there will be a chance to greet the students and enjoy refreshments downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All students (and December graduates) are invited to Pastor Dan's home (10382 Clinton Ave., North Rose) for a lasagne lunch at noon.

Today's bulletins are given in honor of Lori & Greg Peck and all those who helped with the angel tree project, and Bud Smith and all those who helped with the mitten tree project.

If your family is not represented on our sanctuary Christmas tree, we invite you to add an ornament from your house to the tree anytime during the Christmas season. Simply fill out a tag from the basket below, with the year and your family name & members. Then, attach the tag to your ornament and hang it on the tree. Ornaments, saved from year to year, fill our sanctuary trees with the love of our past church families as well as those of the present.

We have lots of great Christmas books and videos—for young children, elementary aged kids, teens, and adults! Check out our church library, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All books may be borrowed for two weeks by signing them out on the clipboard or computer.

Here's an idea to save a little time (and money): deliver your Christmas cards to church friends using their mail folders. We have mail folders located in the fellowship hall by the choir room for each person who is a church officer. Please be sure you check your folder if you have one—you don't want to miss out on Christmas greetings!

NURSERY care is available for babies, toddlers & pre-schoolers. It is located downstairs (east end of the building). Bathrooms are located downstairs across from the kitchen.

Would you like to sponsor one of our Sunday bulletins in memory or in honor of someone? Just add your name to the sign-up list by the church office. If you would like to use one from our files, the suggested donation is \$10. If you would like one ordered, the cost is around \$20. Please contact the church office for more information.

We have printed up copies of the praise music, which include the musical notes. If you would enjoy a copy, please pick it up on the Upper Room table in the back of the sanctuary.

We have a prayer box on the small table in the back of the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to write prayer needs on a slip of paper and place them in the box. This prayer box is laid on the altar each Sunday. Pastor Dan takes the

prayer requests home and continues to pray for these needs during the coming week. However, if you wish to keep your request known to God alone, just write “private” on the front, and Pastor Dan will not read it.

**Today** – 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

11:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Drama Rehearsal

6:00-7:30 p.m. All Church Christmas Caroling (with MS/HS Youth)

**Monday** – 7:00 p.m. Adult Handbell Rehearsal

**Tuesday** – 3:20 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Jr. Choir

**Thursday** – Church Offices Closed, No Chancel Choir

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship-Jr. Choir & Drama

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship-Chancel Choir, Handbells, Drama

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship-Drama, Choir, Handbells, Soloist

**Friday** – Merry Christmas! Church Offices Closed

**Sun. Dec. 27** – Christmas Sunday; Mission Bank

No Youth/Adult Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship: “The Light of Christ” Isaiah 9: 2-7

No J4J – Joyful for Jesus (Children’s Sunday School)

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

6:00-7:30 p.m. Explorers (confirmation class)

No MS Youth Group

**Mon. Dec. 28** – No Adult Handbells

**Tues. Dec. 29** – No Jr. Choir

**Thur. Dec. 31** – No Chancel Choir

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Pastor: Rev. Dan Corretore

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Diane Walker

Church Secretary: Mary Anjo

Pastor's Office Assistant: Melissa Taber

Praise Music: Ken & Kim Dobbin

Accompanist: Kim Dobbin

Organist: Jan McDorman

Organist Emerita: Lorraine Wilson

Chancel & Bell Choir Director: Lucy Smith

Custodian: Lois Loveless

Jr. Choir Director: Lucinda Collier

Signer: Rachel Guthrie

Visiting Ministry Coordinator: Ann Stevens

Sound: Randy Stewart

Head Usher: Don Ballagh

Child/Youth Support: Roxie Walker

Counters: June Smith

Greeter: Shirley Barnes

Nursery Coordinator: Kim Sember

Announcements: Mary Anjo

Projectionist: Abby Hilkert

Lay Reader: Darcy Petrosino

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\$2,021.05 Last Sunday's receipts for our Operating Budget

\$3,498.17 Average weekly receipts needed

127 Last Sunday's attendance