

**To our Visitors**

**We welcome you and hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus; may you feel welcome among us. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex, and we welcome you to join us for snacks.**

**Pray always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

**In Need of Prayer**

Rosie, Linda's daughter, deep grieving  
Brenda, for health  
Ed, for mobility, back pain  
Nancy, health and sustaining grace  
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa  
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis  
Raven, child with seizures  
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill Brenda's nephew, broken friendship, and for nephew Glenn: serious illness College students, for continuing faith  
Jennet family, illness and deaths  
Linda S, breathing concerns  
Janet Evans, confusion (in AZ)  
Marie, employment and comfort  
Alicia, niece of Carolyn, cancer diagnosis Donna's family, Dan, recent heart surgery.  
Jen: healing of ankle, father's chemo, friend in Israel Family of Enrique, grief  
Sue Rojeck, eye surgery complications

General Fund giving this week: \$6,593

Total giving to date in Dec.: \$6,593

**For tax purposes, last date Dec. 31.**

**In Need of Prayer**

**Heidelberg Catechism Q4:** What does God's law require of me? **A.** Christ teaches this in summary in Matthew 22—You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Bunny Rector, recent fall with injuries.

Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis Lisa, Pastor's niece, newly discovered cancer

Glad, for strength and sustaining grace

Benita, continued prayer for improved blood counts

Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell, cancer

Sean's aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving

Debbie, Pam's friend, improved, more chemo

Judy V. and family in Florida

Lance, brother-in-law of Isles family

Sue, sister-in-law of Isles family

Ron, age 34, heart failure, needs heart transplant

Sarah, for strength to carry her load

Pastor Scott McKee, serious cancer

Willy, 76, needs Jesus

Sue, nodules in lungs, diagnosis and treatment Krystal's friend, Lolita, with esophageal cancer Our Military: Andrew, son of Craig M, deployed to Qatar.

Pray for our military. Andrew, son of Craig M: deployed.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Linda Johnson and family in the recent death of her mother, in Florida.

We also pray for the Hartig's in the death of Renate's mother, in Germany.

H H A R R K K  
H A R K K  
the herald angels sing  
GLORY TO  
THE  
NEWBORN  
KING





# CHRIST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Welcome to Worship

December 10, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

**Gathering Song: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** (bulletin page 7) † **Call to Worship**  
(from Luke 2)

Pastor: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

**People: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.**

Pastor: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

**People: The shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."**

**Unison: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.**

† **Love Has Come** (page 8)

† **Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

Hark-the-Herald-Angels-Sing-Copyright 2016 Timothy R. Botts |

**Lighting of the Third Advent Candle The Shepherds Candle The Muthukumar Family**

† **Standing as you are able**

**Today, we will ordain and/or install the leadership of our church.**

To be ordained and installed as Elders: Raymond Boone, Justin Isles, and Sean Murphy.

To be installed as Elders: Brenda Cook, Bruce Terras.

To be ordained and installed as Deacons: Judy Carr, Electrica Woods.

To be installed as Deacon: Donna Whiting

**Pray for these leaders to have the mind of Christ in all they do.**

## Christmas Eve Day

**This year, Christmas Eve** is on a Sunday. Instead of having two services that day, we will meet together to celebrate the birth of our Savior at our normal Sunday morning time, 10:30 A.M. The service will include communion and the candle-light circle and singing of Silent Night as is our custom. Please encourage your families to come with you and participate in this glorious celebration of Christ's birth.

## Angel Tree Gifts

**Today is Delivery Day!** Gifts for Angel Tree children will be delivered this afternoon. Bruce Terras will assist drivers regarding the destinations.

**For On-line orders** which will provide money for the caregivers to select gifts for the children, please see Cheri Boone for assistance.

## Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Orders are still open for the purchase of poinsettias to adorn the front of the sanctuary. You may honor someone, or remember one who has passed away. Cost is \$10. See Linda Davis to complete your order. You may take yours home after the holidays.

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## Silent Night, Holy Night

### First Scripture Reading

Reader Today: Sue Work

#### Acts 10:34-43 Responsive <sup>34</sup>

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>

**You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.**

<sup>39</sup>

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,

**<sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>**

**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."**

#### 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 Responsive

<sup>35</sup>

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

<sup>36</sup> How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

<sup>39</sup>

**Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. <sup>40</sup> There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is**

another. <sup>41</sup> **The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.**

<sup>42</sup> So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. >>>>>

**If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> <sup>48</sup>**

The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. <sup>50</sup> **I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

<sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> **“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”**

<sup>56</sup> <sup>57</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> **Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**† Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World  
without end. Amen. Amen.

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

Love Has Come!

## Ordination and Installation of Church Officers

† Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory:** Go Tell it on the Mountain Traditional/arr. Mark Hayes  
Yuta Sugano, Pianist

† **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise  
Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### Second Scripture Readings

**Romans 8:28-39 Responsive** <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

<sup>30</sup>

**And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.**

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

<sup>33</sup>

**Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>  
Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who  
was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or  
famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

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<sup>37</sup> **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I  
am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor  
the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will  
be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Responsive <sup>13</sup>**

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death,  
so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that  
Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have  
fallen asleep in him.

<sup>15</sup> **According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the  
coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord  
himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel  
and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the  
clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore  
encourage one another with these words.

#### **Sermon: The Fate of Deceased Christians**

Dr. James N. McGuire

**Pastoral Prayer † Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night** (page  
10)

#### **Responsive Litany** (from Revelation 21)

Pastor: Then I saw a “new heaven and a new earth,” for the  
first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and  
there was no longer any sea.

**People: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people,  
and he will dwell with them. They will be his people and God  
himself will be with them and be their God.**

Pastor: “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, There  
will be no more death, or mourning or crying or pain, for  
the old order of thing has passed away.”

**Unison: He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making  
everything new!” Then he said,  
“Write these things down, for these words are trustworthy  
and true.”**

**Benediction**

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming