



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 3, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem (bulletin page 7)

† Call to Worship (From Luke 1)

Pastor: And Mary said, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

People: From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me--holy is his name.

Pastor: His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Unison: He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

† Hymn: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

† Invocation and the Lord's Praye

First Scripture Readings

John 6:25-40 Responsive

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶Jesus answered, “**Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.**”

²⁸Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “**The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.**”

³⁰So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³²Jesus said to them, “**Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**”

³⁴“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵Then Jesus declared, “**I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.**”

³⁷All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

³⁸**For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.**”

1 Timothy 5:1-8 Responsive

⁵Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

³**Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.**

⁵The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. ⁶But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.

⁷Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. ⁸Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

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.

† Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: The Coventry Carol/The First Nowell Traditional/arr. Mark Hayes
Yuta Sugano

† 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

1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12

¹¹ Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,

¹² **so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.**

2 Thessalonians 3:1-15

¹As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. ²And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith.

³But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.

⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

¹¹We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

¹⁴Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Christian Ambition
Dr. James N. McGuire

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
Litany: page 5

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N, McGuire, Pastor

Yuta Sugano, Musician

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.

**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, 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
Donna's family, Dan, recent heart
surgery.
Jen: healing of ankle, father's chemo,
friend in Israel
Linda Johnson's mother, near death

General Fund giving this week:
\$3,170

Total giving to date in Nov: \$14,330

In Need of Prayer

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
Family of Rusty, dear friend of Ron I, sudden death
Willy, 76, needs Jesus
Sue, nodules in lungs, diagnosis and treatment
Krystal's friend, Lolita, with esophageal cancer

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

As the Middle Eastern war continues, it has spilled over into Lebanon. Please pray for Robbie and Joyce who are involved in children and family work, and Tim North also involved in working with the mixture of cultures there.

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.

Looking Ahead

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.

Next Sunday, December 10. we will ordain and/or install the leadership of our church. Your attendance will encourage them.

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

To be installed as Elders: Bruce Terras, Brenda Cook

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.

Angel Tree, A Ministry of Prison Fellowship.

Under the ministry of Brenda Cook and Cheri Boone, we have the opportunity to bless the lives of children of incarcerated parents. It is involving gifts for children given in the name of the parent who has requested this on their behalf. Gifts will be distributed to the children's home today. If you prefer you may order on line. Cheri Boone can help.

It is not too late to order poinsettias for the sanctuary. See Linda Davis.