



Gilead Presbyterian Church
December 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
4th Sunday of Advent, Year A
Nativity Pageant Sunday

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC

"Manger Medley"
Mary Temple, organ

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign.

People: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son.

Leader: And she shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).

People: God is with us!

ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.



(The people sing:)

(Purple Hymnal #92)

Light in the darkness, come; light in the darkness, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

***PURPLE HYMNAL #147**

"The First Nowell"

**1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

**2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)**

**6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for your light of salvation for all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of our sins and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(adapted from Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts)

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PURPLE HYMNAL #132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Peace be with you. People: And also with you.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

**Light four candles, Christ is coming—Christ, the Peace of the world!
Light four candles, Christ is coming! Christ is coming soon!**

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

**“What Child Is This”
Gilead Singers**

***PURPLE HYMNAL #136**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

**3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

SETTING THE SCENE

Rev. Martin McGeachy

THE GILEAD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“Christmas Stars”

PURPLE HYMNAL #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!

And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

PURPLE HYMNAL #123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

PURPLE HYMNAL #113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PURPLE HYMNAL #115

“Away in a Manger”

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

PURPLE HYMNAL #122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

***PURPLE HYMNAL #134**

“Joy to the World!”

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

**Please stand, if you are able.*

*Thank you to our videographer today, Stephanie Gould.
Our Lay Reader is Penny Cameron.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ Wednesday Bible Study in on Christmas vacation. See you in 2023!
- ▶ This morning, December 18, Singers rehearse at 9:15.
- ▶ On Christmas Eve, Bells rehearse at 6:30, Singers at 6:45, Ensemble at 7:00.

Advent/Christmas Countdown:

Sunday, Dec. 18 – Nativity Pageant Sunday. Support the young people as they present their pageant, and bring your favorite nativity or Christmas decoration to share on display in the lounge. Also, enjoy the Bake Sale—bring something, buy something!

Saturday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30pm. An instrumental ensemble will begin playing at 7:15.

Sunday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day worship at 10am, lots of carols and joy!



† *We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.*

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor
Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

9 Church Street
Carmel, NY 10512
(845) 225-4586

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www.gileadchurch.org

