# GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

# Sunday, December 3, 2023, 10:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent, Year B

We welcome Rev. Douglas S. Phillips, who serves as the Westchester Medical Center Chaplain to the Emergency Room, Burn Unit and Trauma Intensive Care Unit, as well as Parish Associate at the Katonah Presbyterian Church, to the pulpit today!

OPENING MUSIC

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
Mary Temple, organ

Trad. French Carol arr. by Lani Smith

During the opening music, let us quiet the noise from outside, cease our conversation with the world, and begin listening for the music of God's voice.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are waiting in the dark of the end of the year.

Congregation: We are waiting for the Potter to shape our lives. Leader: We are waiting to see clearly what lies hidden in the darkness.

Congregation: We are waiting, awake and alert, ready for God to us again.

Leader: In the darkness, a candle is lit. The light comforts our waiting. Congregation: The light reminds us of the One Who is to come.

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

\*PURPLE HYMNAL #82

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Roth Family

(Congregation responds following both readers)

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

SONG OF LIGHT Light one candle, Christ is coming, Christ, the Hope of the World, Light one candle, Christ is coming, Christ is coming soon!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Lord, save us. Save us from indifference and impatience. Save us from the distractions of this lifetime. Enter our lives and restore the goodness You have planted within us. By Your saving love, draw us into lives of healing and hope. Heal our brokenness and shape our lives with Your loving hands, that we might reflect Your love. Come down, O God, and restore us this day. We ask in Christ's name, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*THE GLORIA: Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

ANTHEM

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"
Gilead Singers

based on Plainsong

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Lucy Ojeda

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

#### SCRIPTURE

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ¹ There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁶ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ී Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Isaiah 64: 1-9

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup> From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also,

when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup> But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Mark 13: 24-37

SERMON Rev. Douglas Phillips

\*POURPLE HYMNAL #99 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

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

"Abba, Father!" Gilead Singers by Rev. Carey Landry

\*DOXOLOGY: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*PURPLE HYMNAL #93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Gilead Singers

POSTLUDE

"Postlude on 'Come Thou Almighty King' "
Mary Temple, organ

by Gordon Young

<sup>\*</sup>The congregation is invited to stand. **BOLD**: Congregation responds/sings

Thank you to our Lay Reader today, José Ojeda, to Lucy Ojeda for the Time for the Young at Heart, and our videographers, Stephanie and Alexis Gould.

Our chancel flowers today have been given In honor of the congregation by Billy and Duane Stroud-Boutté

# This Week at Gilead

Today Sunday, December 3

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.
- Following worship, join us for coffee, fellowship, and a light brunch.
- 12:00 p.m. Harp & French horn concert with Alyssa & Peter Reit.

Monday, December 4

• 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Wednesday, December 6

• 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom; the link is in the weekly email.

Thursday, December 7

• 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Friday, December 8

• 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Gilead Food Pantry

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship. Rev. Perry Wooten preaching.
- Deacons meet following worship.

## Upcoming:

Tuesday, December 12: Regular Session meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the lounge. Sunday, December 17: Carol singing, 3:00 p.m. All are welcome! See Mary Temple for more info. Sunday, December 24: Christmas Pageant, 10:00 a.m.; Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.

We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, <u>www.gileadchurch.org</u>, or mail checks to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512

#### **GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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