

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 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

Communion Sunday

We welcome Rev. Perry Wootten to the pulpit today!

OPENING MUSIC

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

17th c. traditional chorale

Mary Temple, organ

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: Serve the LORD with gladness and with joy. Come before Him with thanksgiving for all His blessings.

Congregation: Know that the LORD is GOD. It is He Who has made us and we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Leader: Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and praise for all He has done in our lives.

Congregation: Give thanks to the LORD for He is good and His love goes beyond anything and everything we could imagine.

All: The faithfulness of the LORD continues through all generations.

*PURPLE HYMNAL #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(Congregation responds following both readers)

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

SONG OF LIGHT Light two candles, Christ is coming, Christ, the Joy of the World,
Light two candles, Christ is coming, Christ is coming soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Dear LORD, we know that as we celebrate with joy and gladness during this season, we sometimes overlook the true meaning of our celebration, which is the birth of our Savior. We also confess that we sometimes forget to love You with our whole heart and neglect demonstrating our love by sharing our blessings with our families and our neighbors. Forgive us, LORD, and grant us clear

minds to know You, new hearts to love You, and strong hands to serve You — this day, this week, this season, and all the days of our lives. In Jesus' Holy Name we pray. 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

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
Gilead Singers

text: Latin Poem
Plainsong melody

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:1-9

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. ⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done

great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” *Luke 1: 26-38, 46-55*

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. *Romans 16:25-27*

SERMON “On Keeping Your Christmas Joy” Rev. Perry Wootten

***PURPLE HYMNAL #127 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“The Joys of Mary”
Gilead Singers

Trad. English Carol

***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**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

For those joining virtually, all are invited to partake of bread and wine or any substance that feels appropriate; or take in the sacrifice of the Lord symbolically. For those joining physically, the individual Communion sets contain juice; in the trays the red is wine and the yellow is juice.

INVITATION AND THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD, SHARING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

John Vangor, guitar

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.

***PURPLE HYMNAL #134 “Joy to the World!”**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
Mary Temple, organ

by Ludwig von Beethoven
arr. by Denes Agay

*The congregation is invited to stand. **BOLD:** Congregation responds/sings

*Thank you to our Lay Reader today, Roxanne Roth,
and our videographers, Stephanie and Alexis Gould.*

*Our chancel flowers today have been given
by Katherine Foote in loving memory of her father, Emerson Foote.*

This Week at Gilead

Today Sunday, December 10

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.
- Following worship, join us for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.

Monday, December 11

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Tuesday, December 12

- 7:30 p.m. Session meets in the lounge.

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Friday, December 15

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

Sunday, December 17- Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship. Elder Mariah Warren preaching.
- Adopt-a-family gifts due! Help make Christmas special for a family from our community!

Upcoming:

Sunday, December 17: Carol singing, 3:00 p.m. All are welcome! Meet at Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Ludingtonville Road in Holmes.

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Pageant, 10:00 a.m. (11 a.m. Gilead Bell Chimes rehearse)
Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Gilead Singers rehearse)

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

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Follow us online! Visit our website for links to our social media and to subscribe to our email list!

www.gileadchurch.org

