

# 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 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

*We welcome Elder Mariah Warren to the pulpit today!*

OPENING MUSIC

"Silent Night"  
Zoe Temple, piano

by Franz Gruber  
arr. by Faber

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

**Congregation: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders,

**All: And He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

\*PURPLE HYMNAL #123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE      Brittany Carrasco & Stephanie Schleicher (Congregation responds following both readers)

**Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

**SONG OF LIGHT    Light three candles, Christ is coming, Christ, the Peace of the World, Light three candles, Christ is coming, Christ is coming soon!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We have not welcomed the light or trusted your good news to be good. We have often closed our eyes because your light is too brilliant for us, and then see little hope and expecting less. Forgive us our doubt and our wandering, renew our hope that we might find the fullness of the grace you offer each moment. In the life and grace of Jesus Christ 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

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”  
Gilead Singers and Della Temple, flute

French Folksong

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

*The children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

SCRIPTURE

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>19</sup> The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night, but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. <sup>20</sup> Your sun shall no more go down or your moon withdraw itself, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

*Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

*John 1:1-9*

SERMON

“(Un)Prepared for the Light ”

Mariah Warren

**\*PURPLE HYMNAL #314 “Christ, Be Our Light” verses 1, 2, 5**

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 “Savior of the Nations/Fling Wide the Door” German Advent Carols  
Juergen Tempel, cello

**\*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 #247 “Now the Green Blade Rises” verses 1 & 4**

\*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE “Jesus, the Light of the World” by George D. Elderkin  
Mary Temple, organ arr. by E. Simpson-Curento

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

*Thank you to our Lay Reader today, Brenda Verdesi,  
and our videographers, Lexie Fischer and Stephanie Gould.*

*Our chancel flowers today have been given  
by Margery Amato in celebration of the birth of Christ.*

## This Week at Gilead

Today Sunday, December 17

- Adopt-a-family gifts due!
- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.
- Following worship, join us for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.
- Carol singing, 3:00 p.m. All are welcome! Meet at Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Ludingtonville Road in Holmes.

Monday, December 18

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Wednesday, December 20

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

Thursday, December 21

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Friday, December 22

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

Sunday, December 24- Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship. Christmas Pageant.
- 11:00 a.m. Bell Chimes rehearse.
- 6:00 p.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service.

### Upcoming:

Sunday, December 31- New Year's Eve. Ruling Elder Jose Ojeda, preaching.

Sunday, January 7- Epiphany. Rev. Courtney Steininger, preaching.

*We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, [www.gileadchurch.org](http://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](http://www.gileadchurch.org)**

