

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 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Pageant Sunday- Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

OPENING MUSIC

"Silent Night"
Redd Behan, cello

by Franz Gruber

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 on you, God. We are still waiting.

Congregation: The darkness is deeper, but look! The star is beginning to shine. The everlasting light is creeping closer.

Leader: Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our tongues.

Congregation: Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

All: We are waiting on love. And Love is waiting on us.

*PURPLE HYMNAL #147 v. 1 & 2

"The First Nowell"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
(Congregation responds following both readers)

Leslie Palmieri and friends

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

SONG OF LIGHT Light four candles, Christ is coming, Christ, the Love of the World, Light four candles, Christ is coming, Christ is coming soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, we sing your praises, for your love endures forever. The Virgin Mary bore the ultimate revelation of your divine love, the baby Jesus. And now we thank you for the privilege of bearing your love in the world. We confess that often we have failed you in this commission. At times, we have questioned this call, saying “How can this be?” Other times, we have failed to offer love out of fear of rejection or self-involvement. Send your Holy Spirit upon us. Strengthen us and show us where revealing your love can bring new life. 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.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***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 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PAGEANT

Diana Drake Behan

ANTHEM

“Mary’s Boy Child”
Paul Francis, soloist, and Gilead Singers

by Jester Hairston

PAGEANT HYMNS

***PURPLE HYMNAL #115, v. 1 & 2 “Away in a Manger”**

***INSERT “The Friendly Beasts” .**

***PURPLE HYMNAL #113, v. 1 & 3 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

***PURPLE HYMNAL #135, v. 1 & 3 “Rise Up Shepherds and Follow”**

***PURPLE HYMNAL #133 v. 1 & 4 “O Come All Ye Faithful”**

***PURPLE HYMNAL #151 “We Three Kings”**

***PURPLE HYMNAL #134 v. 1-4 “Joy to the World”**

Redd Behan on cello

***BENEDICTION**

Diana Drake Behan

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

POSTLUDE

“Feliz Navidad/We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

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

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

This Week at Gilead

Today Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.
- Following worship, join us for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.
- 11:00 a.m. Gilead Bell Chimes rehearse.
- 6:00 p.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 7:15 p.m. Gathering music.
- 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service.

Monday, December 25

- **No** Stretch Exercise Class- classes resume January 4th.

Wednesday, December 27

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

Friday, December 29

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

Sunday, December 31- First Sunday after Christmas, New Year's Eve

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship. Elder José Ojeda, preaching.

Upcoming:

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

Sunday, January 21- Secret Pal party and cookie exchange.

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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Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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

www.gileadchurch.org





The Friendly Beasts

*Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around Him stood,
Jesus, our brother, strong and good.*

*I, said the cow, all white and red,
I gave Him my manger for his bed,
I gave Him hay to pillow his head,
I, said the cow, all white and red.*

*I, said the sheep with curly horn,
I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn,
I, said the sheep with curly horn.*

*Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
In the stable dark were glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
The gifts they gave Emmanuel.*