

### This Week at Gilead

Today Sunday, December 1 **First Sunday of Advent; Communion Sunday**

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.
- Following worship, join us for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.
- Poinsettia orders due! Please see Margery Amato to place yours. \$16 each.
- Deacons meet following worship.

Monday, December 2

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class

Wednesday, December 4

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

Thursday, December 5

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class
- 7:00 p.m. Gilead Singers rehearsal.

Friday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 7

- 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Open House for neighbors and friends! Bring treats to share (sign up in the lounge) and your Christmas carol requests.

Sunday, December 8 **Second Sunday of Advent**

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship. CRE Edgar Hayes, preaching.

#### Upcoming:

Tuesday, December 10: Stated Session meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the lounge.

Sunday, December 15: Christmas Pageant, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 17: Carol singing, 2:45 p.m. All are welcome! See Mary Temple for more info.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.

*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

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

(845) 225-4586

Mary Temple, Music Director  
Lexie Fischer, Office Assistant

[gileadpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:gileadpresbyterian@gmail.com)

Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30 – 12:30

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

**Sunday, December 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**First Sunday of Advent, Year C; Communion Sunday**

*We welcome Rev. Ray Bagnuolo to the pulpit today!*

OPENING MUSIC “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Plainsong  
Karen Mack, soloist, and the Gilead Singers pre 9<sup>th</sup>-century translation

*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 gather here; coming from near and far, with bubbling anticipation!

**All: We are hope. The hope for renewal in love; in God with us.**

Leader: We embrace "God with Us", Emmanuel; our eyes wide and our hearts strong.

**All: We are hope. The hope of what a newborn will bring into this world.**

Leader: We are ready. Yes?

**All: Yes. We are. We are God’s hope for humanity and all creation. Come. Let us join together in this Spirit of God in praise and prayer; worship and song! Amen.**

**\*PURPLE HYMNAL #82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Warren 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: Gracious God, sometimes we slip from hope. We get distressed; frightened. We forget that Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are not “sometime things”. They are “always gifts”. Your eternal and ever-present gifts in us, renewed during this Advent time.**

**God of all seasons, show us the way, please, through the storms that attempt to cloud our vision. Disperse into the wind the fear of tempests. Renew from deeply in our hearts, the song of hope - more powerfully than we have ever known. Stir us to walk with you, holding our heads high and eyes open into our Jerusalem, as Jesus once did in his. May we “be hope” again and always - for all - for you. 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

“Bring Us Hope” by Ruth Elaine Schram  
Gilead Singers with Juergen Tempel, cello

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

*The children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

SCRIPTURE

The days are surely coming, says YHWH, when I will bestow on Israel and Judah all the blessings I promised them. In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous branch from the line of David, who will bring justice and integrity to the land. In those days Judah will be safe and Jerusalem will be secure. They will call the land, ‘YHWH is our Justice.’  
*Jeremiah 33:14-16*

“Signs will appear in the sun, the moon, and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand.” And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, or any other tree. You see when they’re budding and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, know that the reign of God is near. The truth is, this generation will not pass away until all this takes place. The heavens and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on your guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly cares. That day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch. Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever comes, and to stand secure before the Chosen One.”  
*Luke 21:25-36*

SERMON

“Under the bright lights, too...” Rev. Ray Bagnuolo

**\*PURPLE HYMNAL #353**

**“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  
Gilead Singers

**\*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 TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF BREAD – COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

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.**

**CONG. RESPONSE (PURPLE HYMNAL #469) “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”**

**\*PURPLE HYMNAL #93**

**“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

“Song of Hope”  
Gilead Singers

POSTLUDE

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”  
Mary Temple, organ

French Melody

*\*The congregation is invited to stand. **BOLD:** Congregation responds/sings  
Thank you to our Lay Reader today, Duane Stroud-Boutté,  
and our videographers, Lexie Fischer & Stephanie Gould.*

*Our Sanctuary flowers this week are given to the glory of God by Leslie Palmieri in celebration of Advent and lighting the candle of hope.*