

### This Week at Gilead

Today, Sunday, December 15

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

Monday, December 16

- 11:00 a.m. Stretch Exercise Class.

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

- 7:00 p.m. Gilead Singers rehearsal.

Friday, December 20

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

Saturday, December 21

- 2:45 p.m. Christmas Caroling. Meet us in the church parking lot.

Sunday, December 22 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 9:10 a.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship. Paul Francis preaching.

December Mission: We have adopted two families this year to share the joy of Christmas with. Wish-list tags can be found in the lounge. The blue snowflake tags on the bulletin board are for a family of five including three children. The ivory tags hanging from our Christmas tree are for a family of eight adults. We ask that all gifts be wrapped with the gift tag placed on the outside. Gifts must be brought in by next Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Upcoming:

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m. Music begins at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29: Christmas carol sing during worship.

\*Through the month of December, Stop and Shop of Mahopac will donate \$1 to Gilead's Food Pantry for every \$2.50 community bag (reusable shopping bag) sold. Spread the word! We're grateful to have been selected as Stop and Shop's December recipient.

Note: We have received some pledges for 2025- thank you! We encourage everyone to submit a pledge card marking your commitment to Gilead. This will enable Session to plan for the coming year and finalize our 2025 budget. If you don't already have a pledge card, we have them in the pews.

### GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Follow us online! Visit our website for our social media links & to subscribe to our email list!  
[www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org)

# 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 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pageant Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent, Year C**

*We welcome Rev. Perry Wootten to the pulpit today!*

OPENING MUSIC "Christmas Pastoral" by Charles Demorest  
Penny Cameron, piano, & Mary Temple, organ arr. by Rob Roy Perry

*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 (Isaiah 12:3-6)**

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:  
"Give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;

**People: Make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

**People: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."**

**\*PURPLE HYMNAL #83 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" v. 1 & 2**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Cameron Family  
(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 Peace of the World, Light two candles, Christ is coming, Christ is coming soon!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, you are the one who leads us from darkness into light, from captivity into freedom, from anxiety into peace, from despair into joy. Yet we long to break free,

OPENING PRAYER

**choosing independence, convinced of our own wisdom, forgetting your love and grace. Forgive us, draw close to us, embrace us once again in your loving arms, and enable us to follow you in worship and grateful service each day of our lives. 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 "The Joys of Mary" Traditional carol, arr. by Fred Bock  
Gilead Singers with Mariah Warren & Brittany Carrasco, soloists

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

<sup>9</sup> These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup> And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup> And God saw that the earth was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. <sup>13</sup> And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. <sup>14</sup> Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. <sup>17</sup> For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. <sup>20</sup> Of the birds according to their kinds and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. <sup>21</sup> Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up, and it shall serve as food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup> Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

*Genesis 6:9-22*

<sup>1</sup> Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation- <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup> and "A stone that makes

them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. *1 Peter 2: 1-9*

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:14-16*

SERMON "Let the Everlasting Light of GOD Shine In Us!" Rev. Perry Wootten

#### 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"

#### THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Mary's Boy Child" by Jester Hairston  
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.**

#### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

##### Hymns:

"A Super Christmas"  
#121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
#113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
#136 "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

#### \*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" (P#95)

#### POSTLUDE

"Christmas Joy" Lani Smith  
Penny Cameron, piano, & Mary Temple, organ

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

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

Commented [M1]: