

## This Week at Gilead

Today Sunday, December 22

- 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 23

- No Stretch Exercise Class- will resume following New Year's Day.

Tuesday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**

- 6:20 p.m. Gilead Bell Chimes set up/rehearse.
- 6:50 p.m. Gilead Singers rehearse.
- 7:00 p.m. Gathering music by the Gilead Ensemble.
- 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Tim Stan, preaching.

Wednesday, December 25 **Christmas Day**

**We wish you a blessed and joyous time with those you love!**

Friday, December 27

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

Sunday, December 29 **Favorite Carol Sing** Tina Annunziato & Diana Drake Behan, Lay Readers

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday 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.

### Upcoming:

Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>- Celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord; Communion Sunday.

As we end the Christmas season, please join us in "de-greening" the church following worship.

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>- Secret Pal party after worship, where we'll reveal our 2024 pals and choose new ones for the coming year. Bring a treat to share. All are invited to join this fellowship in 2025!

Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>- Stated Session meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the manse.

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>- Our Bible Study, "Love Carved in Stone" (on the Ten Commandments), resumes following worship. We invite all to join us- see Mariah Warren if you're interested.

### GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512

(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

**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 22, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C**

*We welcome Mariah Warren to the pulpit today!*

OPENING MUSIC

"O Come, Little Children (Ihr Kinderlein, Kommet)"

Della Temple, flute

by J. A. P. Schultz

*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 (Psalm 80:1-7)**

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin of Manasseh.

**People: Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**People: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

**All: Restore us, O God of Hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**\*PURPLE HYMNAL #110**

**"Love has Come"**

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

The Betancourt Family

**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 begins after reader says "Amen.")

**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

Heavenly Creator, we come before You this day in preparation for the birth of Your Son, the Prince of Peace, but our minds are elsewhere. We are caught up in preparations for presents, decorations, family visits, and parties, when instead we need to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the mystery and joy of the coming of Jesus as a helpless baby. Forgive us for getting caught up in secular busyness when You ask us to focus on what is sacred and to live in the moment. Help us to fear not, to be still, and to hear the angels' voices reminding us that Emmanuel, our God, is with us now and forever. Amen.

## SILENT PRAYER

**\*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** "Shout for Joy" by Don Besig  
Gilead Singers

## TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

*The children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace. *Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." *Luke 1:39-47*

## SERMON

"Leap of Faith"

written by Paul Francis

## \*PURPLE HYMNAL #104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

## 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

"One Small Child"  
Mary Temple, organ

by David Meece

**\*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.**

## \*PURPLE HYMNAL #105

"People, Look East!"

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"  
Gilead Singers and Congregation

**P. #95**

## POSTLUDE

"God Rest Ye"  
Zoe Temple, piano

English air

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

*Thank you to our Lay Reader today, Duane Stroud-Bouffé,  
and our videographers, Lexie Fischer and Stephanie Gould.*

*The fresh greenery in the chancel has been given by the Behan Family  
in loving memory of Warren Behan.*