

Advent Candle Lighting

Song: "Wait for the Lord" (Purple) #90

We wait for the coming of Christ,
who is our mighty savior and the source of all light.

Pour out your redeeming love on all the world,
the unconditional love and grace that overcomes all sin and selfishness.

Fill our hearts with your great love,
and help us to better love our neighbors as you call us too.

As we light the fourth candle, the candle of love, let us reflect on how we may
better love our neighbors and thereby love God.

Song: "Wait for the Lord" (Purple) #90

Opening Prayer

Ministry of Music "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?" Stan Pethel
How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Shall we find the stable room lit by
a star? Can we see the little Child? Is He within? If we lift the wooden latch,
may we go in? May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass or sheep? May we
peek like them and see Jesus asleep? If we touch His tiny hand, will He
awake? Will he know we've come so far just for his sake? Great kings have
precious gifts, and we have naught. Little smiles and little tears are all we
brought. For all weary children, Mary must weep. Here, on His bed of straw,
sleep, children, sleep. How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Message

Carol: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Blue) #145

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*Adam and Eve disobey God’s command
and disrupt the order and goodness of creation*

Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Blue) #141

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises that, through Abraham,
all the peoples of the world will be blessed*

Carol: “A Nativity Prayer” (Blue) #126

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The people who walk in darkness
receive the promise of the Messiah*

Ministry of Music “O Come, Emmanuel”

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

*The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse
to restore the peace of creation*

Carol: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (Blue) #160

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

*An angel appears to Mary and announces
that she will bear a holy child*

Carol: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (Blue) #133

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem,
where Mary gives birth to her child*

Carol: “Away in a Manger” (Blue) #158

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields
and announce the birth of the Messiah*

Ministry of Music “Go With Him to Bethlehem” Pepper Choplin
Go With Him to Bethlehem, go with him to Bethlehem. Shepards, lift your eyes, see the angels come with heaven’s glory. All through your lives, you will go and tell this wondrous story: how the angels came to you to announce the holy truth, that a Child is born and he is Christ the Lord. Go to him in Bethlehem, see this mighty wonder. Co to him in Bethlehem, see the holy Child. Worship him in Bethlehem and bow down in praise. He is Christ the Lord. He is Christ the Lord. Shepherds, see the Child. Tell the people all the angels told you. Stay with him a while. Let the holy presence come enfold you. You will celebrate the day when the angels showed the way. You will shout with joy that he is Christ the Lord.

Go to him in Bethlehem, see this mighty wonder. Go to him in Bethlehem, see the holy Child. Worship him in Bethlehem and bow down in praise. His is Christ the Lord. He is Christ the Lord. O come, let us adore him.....He is Christ the Lord, rise up and praise, rise up and praise, rise up and praise, rise up and go to him!

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah
and offer gifts to the baby Jesus*

Carol: “We Three Kings” (Blue) #166

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

*The Word of God becomes flesh
and lives among us, full of grace and truth*

Carol: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Blue) #124

THE LITURGY OF RESPONSE

Announcements

Offering

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People followed by the Lord's 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: “Joy To the World” (Blue) #125

*Choral Benediction

“Benediction for Advent”

Ryan Brewer

***Benediction**

Postlude “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” Johann Pachelbel

** indicates the congregation stands, if able.*

WELCOME as we worship together. Please join us for coffee hour fellowship after our worship service.

Thank you to organist Audrey Daly-Gilman, pianist Betty Ketcham, and our Chancel Choir.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

PLEASE SPEAK TO A GREETER ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

CHILDREN BULLETINS AND SACK COLORING PAGES are available in the front of the sanctuary.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are in the back of the sanctuary.

LARGE PRINT HYMNAL: If you are visually challenged, a larger version of the *Glory to God* hymnal is available in the front or back of the sanctuary. The covers are black.

VOLUNTEERS FOR TODAY

Greeters & Counters.....Michelle Stevens & Kelli Moore
Side Door Greeter.....Sallie Townsend
AV Support.....Michael Gilman

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	December 31	January 7	January 14
Greeters	Angie Stewart & Marianne Baratier	Craig & Barb Sargent	Dan & Christine Capuano
Offering Counters	Angie Stewart & Marianne Baratier	Barb Sargent & Nancy Twaddell	Dan Capuano & Laurie Warner
AV Volunteer	Ryan Brewer	Tom Boink	Michael Gilman

COMING UP

Today 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

Mon. December 25 Blessed Christmas

Sun. Dec. 31 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Mon. Jan. 1 5-6:30 p.m. First Monday of the Month Community Dinner

Our church building will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 28 & 29. If there is an emergency, you can contact Pastor Matthew at 518-723-0821.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE TONIGHT AT 6:30 P.M.

Invite a friend and be part of this special worship service.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT OUR FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Join us New Year's Day for our dinner. We serve between 5-6:30 p.m. A special thanks to all the volunteers who made this New Year's Day dinner possible.

PRAYERS FOR: Angie's sister **Lori**, recovering from surgery this past week; **Nancy**, sister of Jackie Gregory, expected to go to Boston for serious surgery this week

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Caitlin, niece of Michelle Stevens; **Jan Davis**, now at Sunnyview for rehab; **Gail Kidder**, sister of Deb McKee; **Sandra**, daughter of Lois and Ron Ginsburg; **Jim Pavoldi**; **Brian**, brother-in-law of Marianne Baratier; **Emmit**, Diane Stedman's grandson; Keith Baratier's father, **Paul**; **Curt Damhof**

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Joe and Jeanelle Bryson on the birth of their daughter, **Lehana**

THOSE WITH LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES: Patti Percoski; Paige and Eric Tooker (Cystic Fibrosis); Paula and Karen Eagan; Lois Wood; Becky Bryne, neighbor of Deb and Steve Ritzko; Barbara Ryan

IN LONG-TERM CARE: Clara and Ralph Lasselle in Kingsway Community Assisted Living; Jeanne Picard-Fish at Daughters of Sarah; Joan Whinnery at Judson Meadows Ass't Living in Glenville

THE POINSETTIAS GRACING THE CHANCEL AREA ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING:

THE BARATIER FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF DOMINICK & MARY DINOLA AND NANCY BARATIER

BETH BURLINGAME

IN MEMORY OF PORTER AND SALLY BIDLEMAN AND MARK

BURLINGAME

THE COUNTERMINE FAMILY

IN MEMORY OF RUTH & IRV COUNTERMINE

CAROLE deFOREST

IN MEMORY OF REV. WILL deFOREST

JUDI DINEEN

IN MEMORY OF CARL AND DOTTIE WALTERS

CINDY EDWARDS
IN MEMORY OF JOEL EDWARDS
DAVID AND PAM FIALKOFF
IN MEMORY OF THE FIALKOFF AND SANTAGATA FAMILIES
THE GURNEYS
IN MEMORY OF IDA & HOWARD GURNEY AND AL & HILDE STUTZ
KITT JACKSON
IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES
EMILY LARAWAY
IN MEMORY OF ANDREW W. LARAWAY
CAROL LENNEBACKER
IN MEMORY OF WAYNE LENNEBACKER
NOREEN NOVAK
**IN MEMORY OF JOE, RICKY, AND JEFF NOVAK, AND BILL & IRENE
GADD**
MATT, ERIN, ELEANOR & MARGARET PARKER
IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL PARKER, SR. AND CHARLES BROWN
SAM PICCOLINO
**IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY & MARGARET AND ANTHONY JR.
PICCOLINO**
DEB RITZKO
IN HONOR OF OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL
BARB AND CRAIG SARGENT
IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY & EDWARD SARGENT AND DOUGLAS HENRY
DIANE AND SARAH STEDMAN
**IN MEMORY OF HOLLIS STEDMAN, JENNIFER BRENNAN, ELLIOT
EHRING, DAISY SHARP, AND LAUREN STEDMAN**
CHRISTINE TUCKER AND THE AUDI FAMILY
IN MEMORY OF NICK AUDI

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