
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

10:00 AM

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Andy Brussel Family

PRELUDE: "Coventry Carol", Handbells

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 126)

Margaret Sollish, Liturgist

One: When the Lord restored the blessings of His people

All: we were like those who dream.

One: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

All: and our tongue with shouts of joy;

One: then it was said among the nations,

All: "The Lord has done great things for them."

One: The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced.

All: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Let us worship the Lord with Joy!

*HYMN #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Let us offer them with joy in our hearts and a deep sense of gratitude.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY HYMN #592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

God of hope and compassion: Just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that light he heralds is the savior of hope. Sometimes it seems our world is determined to extinguish hope and light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, and hope is just wishful thinking. May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair but fierce joy, hope, and compassion. May we also witness through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN #12 "People, Look East"

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(4)

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*For those who are able, please stand.

- **Today's Ushers:** Rush & Marty Pond
- **Coffee Hour:** today is hosted by Heidi Henderson
- **Choir Practice:** will be held at 9:15 each Sunday morning before Worship.
- **Christmas Eve Worship:** Sun., Dec. 24, 10 a.m. Worship and 7 p.m. Candlelight Worship.
- **Childcare will be available:** for the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship. Parents can drop off their children at the Nursery starting at 6:30 p.m. They must be picked up no later than 8:30 p.m. If kids are bringing their own toys, we recommend that they have their names on them.

First Presbyterian Church Baldwinsville, NY

December 17, 2023



Remember in Your Prayers & Correspondence

Anthonia Todd

Church Office: Education Center, 64 Oswego St., Baldwinsville, NY Website: presbville.com
 9am – 2pm M-F Phone 315-635-9964 Fax 315-638-4792

Pastor-----Rev. Kirsty H. Dickson-Maret	Clerk of Session-----Stephanie Stine
Director of Music & Choirs-----Rheta Jenks	Organist-----Lee Johnston
Deacon Co-Moderator-----Marty Pond	Deacon Co-Moderator-----Shane Adams
Administrative Assistant-----Elizabeth Bayer	Financial Secretary-----Andrea Ducharme
Treasurer-----Diana Anastas	Nursery School Director---Jessica Newcomb

Identity Statement

We are a loving family of God, following Christ by practicing our legacy of worship, education, and mission to neighbors.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is light; in God there is no darkness at all.
If we say that we have fellowship with Christ while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true.
But if we walk in the light as Christ himself is in the light, we have fellowship
with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.
Please join me in our Prayer of Confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

**Gracious God, we confess that our sense of anticipation has been
dulled. We have ceased to expect any great wonders from your hand.
We do not see the marvels around us in the people and happenings
which we view as commonplace. We are not alert to your presence or
your action on our behalf. Wake us up, God, lest sleep be our death.
Pardon and redeem us, that we may escape the judgment we are
bringing on ourselves. Send your light that it may shine through us
into a needy world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

One: Now that we have confessed as a body, let us take the truths that have
troubled our hearts to God silently. Let us not be worried about the
awkwardness of silence, as we take some time to focus on speaking with our
God.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Gloria Patri #579

*PASSING OF THE PEACE:

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.
One: Let us share signs of peace with one another.

WE HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 **Liturgist**
red Bible p.908, black Bible p.691

MUSICAL OFFERING

EPISTLE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Rev. Kirsty Dickson-Maret
red Bible p. 1440, black Bible p. 205

GOSPEL LESSON John 1:6-8, 19-28 **Rev. Kirsty Dickson-Maret**
red Bible p. 1289, black Bible p. 91

SERMON "Rejoice Always?" **Rev. Kirsty Dickson-Maret**

WE OFFER OUR LIVES TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the
body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*HYMN #11 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"