

HYMN

"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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, forever. Amen.

HYMN

"As We Go"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Congregational Meeting [Members please remain seated. Visitors may leave at this time.]

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CCLI License #11234266.

Our Visitors

We welcome you to worship today. If you are visiting with us please feel free to speak to the pastor or one of our greeters if you have questions or want more information about Bethpage.

Bethpage is a church committed to children and families and their needs. We have a nursery for infants through three-year-olds and Kids of the Kingdom for four-year-olds through first grade. There are activity sheets and children's Bibles for older children. Feel free to keep your child with you in worship through the Time With Children if that works for your family. Our nursery caregiver is Stephanie Pritchard. Stephanie will text you if your child needs you during worship.



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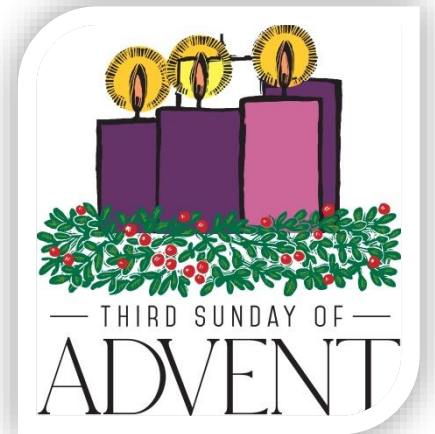
Rev. Valerie Hicks

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**Welcome to Bethpage
Presbyterian Church!**

*"A family of faith in Jesus
Christ, yesterday, today,
and tomorrow."*

**December 14, 2025
10:00 AM**



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

OPENING MUSIC

"O Come Redeemer Come"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dougie and Heather Kirkman, Guy and Evie

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in the joyful presence of God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing. God's love flows through us and floods our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

We light the first candle of Hope. We light the Advent candle of Peace. And this third Sunday in Advent, we light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be fully present with our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

HYMN

"The Light Shines in the Darkness"
(sing two times)

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #22

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
(verses 1, 2, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we too are unworthy before the Lord of All. We acknowledge our sinfulness and confess our need for your forgiveness. Help us to truly repent and turn away from our private temptations and our corporate greed. Show us how to live into our baptisms and the call to be your faithful disciples. Merciful God, hear our silent confessions . . .
Silent Confession

RESPONSE #44

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(verse 3 only, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

GOD’S GRACE AND PROMISE

But do not ignore this one fact, with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast mercy. Calling all to repentance. Come and believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Alleluia. Amen.

RESPONSE

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

GIVING OF BIBLE

Stevie May Redmond

TIME WITH CHILDREN

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

ANTHEM

“Breath of Heaven”

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Common English Bible)

RESPONSE #54

“From Heaven Above”
(verse 1, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 5:14-24 (Good News Translation)

SERMON

“Waiting in Joy”

Valerie Hicks

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

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.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING AND OUR PLEDGES FOR 2026

Offertory

“Mary Did You Know?”

Hymn

“A Grateful Heart”
(verse 1 only)

Litany of Dedication

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,

And we give with joy.

Joy for all you have given us;

Joy because of your sacred promises.

Receive these pledges given for the new year for your work in this place.

Use them and us to bring about your kingdom and to spread your joy. Amen.