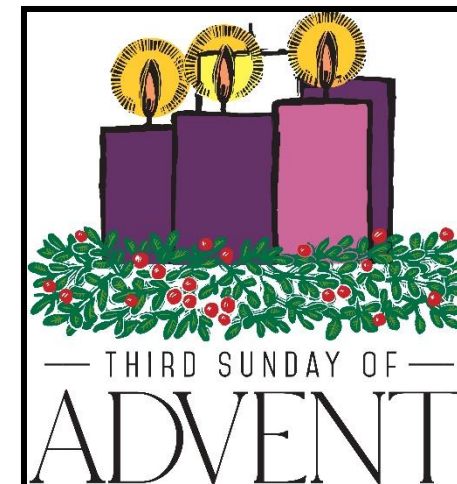




## Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

**December 17, 2023  
10:00 AM**



### ***PRELUDE***

### ***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### ***OPENING MUSIC***

*"Christmas Comes"*

### ***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES***

*Chuck & Jackie MacLaughlin*

Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of peace, the giver of joy.

**We wait, we prepare, we make straight the path.**

We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.

**We are a people of hope.**

We light the first candle for the hope of Christ, which lives in us and abides in us.

**We are a people peace that is the fullness of blessing for all.**

We light the second candle for the peace of Christ, which comes to a broken and violent world.

**We are a people longing for joy.**

We light the third candle for the joy of the Lord is deep within us.

**We await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring joy once more this Christmas season.**



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## **ADVENT PRAYER**

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

## **HYMN #44**

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*  
(verses 1, 2, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen. Hear our silent confessions . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the Good News! Christ came that we might have life, and have it abundantly. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are forgiven.

Christ saves us from our sins. Spread the Good News! Alleluia, Amen.

## **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

## **GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING**

Offertory

Doxology *(sung)*

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

Prayer of Dedication

## **HYMN #40**

*“Joy to the World!”*  
(verses 1, 2, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

## ***“Christmas Spectacular”***

Presented by the Bethpage Presbyterian Church Choir

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

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## **To 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 and childcare for infants through kindergarten. Feel free to keep your child in worship through the Time With the Children if that works for your family. Jaymie Barrier our children’s caregiver will take your cell phone number and will text you if your child needs you during worship.*