



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

**The Service for the Lord’s Day
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 18, 2022

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Coventry Carol”

Arr. Tom Gerou

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

OPENING MUSIC #41 *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*
(verse 1, [The Presbyterian Hymnal](#))

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Garrett, Madison & Everett Scarborough

Reader 1: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don’t always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

Reader 2: For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won’t be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won’t be alone. We seek a blessing.

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Reader 1: Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth's house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God's grace would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

Reader 2: We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and love, as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be felt and lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It's time to go home.

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, we come home to you this Advent. Receive us as we are, with all our faults, all our bad decisions, all our self-centeredness. Welcome us into your loving embrace and forgive us as we begin again to live for you. Help us to rejoice with the angels and spread the word that you have come among us. This we pray in the name of Emmanuel. Amen.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING and OUR CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Offertory "Away in a Manger" Arr. Linda Rickenbacker

Response of Praise #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
(refrain only, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

Prayer of Dedication

A MUSICAL FOR CHRISTMAS

"Near to the Heart of God" Arr. Russell Mauldin
Bethpage Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #40

"Joy to the World!"
(verse 1, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Arr. Dennil Alexander

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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.

Christmas Eve Worship

with Communion and Candle Lighting
is this Friday at 5:00 PM. Please join us!

Worship on Christmas Morning

is at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Wear jeans and a Christmas sweater and come for a light breakfast (cinnamon coffee cake, coffee, and juice). We will be remembering the reason for this holy day with worship and music.



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