

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

**HYMN #28**

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*  
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

**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.*



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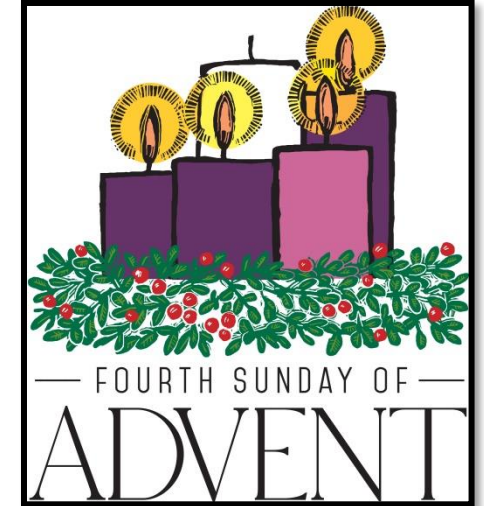
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## Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

**December 24, 2023  
10:00 AM**



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING MUSIC**

*"Christmas Comes"*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*Xcaret and Ramirez Family*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines even in the places where shadows touch our lives.**

We light the candle of hope, for we are a people who hope with deep conviction.

**God sent Jesus, the hope of the world.**

We light the candle of peace, for we long for peace in a world filled with violence.

**God sent Jesus, the Prince of peace.**

We light the candle of joy, for we seek the enduring joy of the Lord.

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come.**

We light the candle of love, for love came down at Christmas.

**It is in love that we know God, we await the pervasive love that came to us as a baby, our savior.**

Come this Advent and rejoice in the light of the world.

**We come to be renewed in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**ADVENT PRAYER**

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your love, a love so great that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify that love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

**HYMN #41**                      *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*  
([The Presbyterian Hymnal](#))

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We confess, Surprising God, that our sense of anticipation has been dulled. We have ceased to expect any wonders from your hand. We do not see the marvels around us in the people and happenings 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 judgement we are bringing on ourselves. Send your light that it may shine through us into a needy and hurting world. Hear our silent confessions . . . *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

**RESPONSE #53**                      *“What Child Is This”*  
(verse 2, [The Presbyterian Hymnal](#))

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The Good News is made real in the flesh of Jesus the Christ, born to each of us. God does not treat us how we deserve, but gives us the gift of forgiveness, reconciliation, and life everlasting.

We join this Christmas Eve, grateful for second chances and ready to begin again to live the life God has created for us. Alleluia! Amen.

**RESPONSE OF PRAISE #23**                      *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*  
(verse 3, [The Presbyterian Hymnal](#))

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**ANTHEM**                      *“Joy to the World”*

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**                      Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 ([Pew Bible](#), p. 638)

**HYMN #56**                      *“The First Nowell”*  
(verses 4, [The Presbyterian Hymnal](#))

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**                      Luke 2:1-12 ([Pew Bible](#), p. 58)

**SERMON**                      *“A Sign”*                      Rev. Valerie Hicks

**HYMN #25**                      *“Away in a Manger”*  
([The Presbyterian Hymnal](#))

**THE PEOPLE RESPOND**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**                      The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING AND OUR CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Offertory                      *“O Holy Night”*

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

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**