

ORDER OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Eleven O'Clock

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast

Liturgist: Bill Gast

PRELUDE:

CHIMING THE HOUR

GREETINGS Psalm 118 says: This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. Visitors, please sign the attendance registers located in each row.

Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the the Assurance of Pardon

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsively)

Leader: **My soul magnifies the Lord,**

People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: **Let us worship God.**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** God of hope, You call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join You in Your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 133 "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*" ADESTE FIDELES

***CALL TO CONFESSiON** If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves. Let us confess our sins before Almighty God. Let us pray together

***PRAYER OF CONFESSiON**

God, as we draw closer to the miracle of Christmas, let us not forget those who are in need of our help. At times we cannot see the suffering in our midst, the dire position of people right before our eyes. We see only what we want to see and in doing so miss Your call to service. Help us to see clearly what lies near at hand and to understand the opportunity to serve You in our community and world. Forgive us when we fail to help those who need us most. (Say – “Please pray silently,” and after about 20 seconds, say, **Amen**) Amen

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: **Brothers and sisters in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

People: Thanks be to God!

You may be seated. Now would Thomas and William please come forward as the congregation sings verse 3 of the insert

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Thomas and William Boyanton

Congregation sings vs. 3 of insert

A TIME FOR YOUTH It is now time for youth, so would our youth please come forward.

Please bow your heads for our Prayer for Illumination

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones You proclaim the unfolding future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe Your advent promise that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and sighing will be no more and the journey of God's people will be joy. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 146:5-10 please read it responsively with me.

Leader: **Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,**

People: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

Leader: **who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;**

People: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Leader: **The Lord watches over the strangers; He upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.**

People: The Lord will reign forever, Your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Isaiah 35:1-10, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 663 of the Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.]] Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The choir will now sing the Anthem:

ANTHEM:

GOSPEL LESSON Our Gospel Lesson comes from Luke 1:46b-55 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 57 of the New Testament

Luke 1:46b-55

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:

***HYMN** No. 144 “*In the Bleak Midwinter*” CRANHAM

Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.

***AFFIRMATION** The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

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.

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 581 “*Glory Be to the Father*” GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end, Amen, amen.

You may be seated, and now Pat Nash would like to bring us a Minute for Mission

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pat Nash

ANNOUNCEMENTS It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY And now it is time for our Prayer Concerns and Celebrations. Does anybody have anything they would like to share?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

OFFERTORY:

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 606 “*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*”

**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.**

Let us come to God with our prayer of Thanksgiving

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of joy and exultation, You strengthen what is weak; You enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in Your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

Our last Hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 118 “*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*” CHRISTMAS

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 88 “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE:**

***Those who are able may stand.**

CCLI License # 2679691

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR POT-LUCK
LUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Daily Bread

Supplement

DeSoto Presbyterian Church www.desotopresbyterian.church

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY – 10:30 AM Tuesday morning group

NEXT SUNDAY – 4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship with installation of new Ruling Elders

12:15 PM Stated Session Meeting

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON/COOKIE EXCHANGE

There will be holiday luncheon/cookie exchange today, December 14 following the Worship service.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING AND ANGEL TREE

As we normally do, we will be collecting donations for our annual **Christmas Joy Offering** on Sunday, December 21st. Please note on your checks or giving envelopes the phrase “Joy Gift.” These gifts that we send to Grace Presbytery are shared equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Also on December 21st, we will be accepting donations for the **Angel Tree** (located on the tables in the Opportunity Corner). These donations will go toward purchasing items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog (samples of which are also on the tables). We normally like to use the funds for buying chickens and water projects, as those seem to be the most useful. Again, please note on your check or giving envelope the phrase “Angel Tree.”

Thank you in advance for your generosity in fulfilling God’s direction to provide for the hungry and for those needing assistance.

POINSETTIA SIGN-UP SHEET

Ordering poinsettia's: the congregation may contribute \$10 for each poinsettia, deadline to sign-up is today, December 14th. Poinsettia's will be ordered and picked up by Pat and will be placed out on December 18th. You may take yours home after the service on December 24th but no later than January 4th. Any plants left after January 4th will be thrown away.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will be having our traditional Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Lessons on December 24th @ 6:00 pm.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Thomas Alexander – please continue to pray

Jim Glander

Martha Brashear – continued prayers

The church and nation of Ukraine

DeSoto Food Pantry

Chikezie is very weak

Christians in Pakistan

Joan Christy – continued prayers

Mirielle said the election went well, but the current leader refuses to leave office, so please continue to pray for Cameroon

Jessica Zinn's step mother is having knee surgery

Nicholas' uncle had a stroke, and he seems to have a brain bleed

Manfred's brother was laid to rest in Cameroon

CELEBRATIONS

Pat thanks Janet and all the people who came to Lorrinda's service. It was wonderful to see former members that haven't been here in a long time

Manfred thanks the congregation for prayers and concern about his brother

Cori thanks everyone for their prayers for her mother-in-law, she's doing much better