

ORDER OF WORSHIP

4TH Sunday of Advent
Christmas Joy Offering

December 21, 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: **For unto us a Child is born.**

People: **And His name shall be called Emmanuel.**

All: **Halleluiah!**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** O God of Elizabeth and Mary, You visited Your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

***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**

Merciful God, as we approach the birth of Your Son with both joy and reverence, be merciful on us. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We love You but despise the "others". We want to work for Your kingdom, but only when it is convenient. Forgive our tendency to put our interest over Yours and lead us to a closer relationship to the Child born in Bethlehem. (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 Joe and Pat please come forward as the congregation sings verse 4 of the insert

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Joe Alexander and Pat Nash

Congregation sings vs. 4 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 Shepherd of Israel, may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. With the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us on the way of grace and peace, that we may bear Your promise into the world. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 please read it responsively with me.

Leader: **Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth**

People: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up Your might, and come to save us!

Leader: **Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.**

People: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with Your people's prayers?

Leader: **You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

People: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Leader: **Return us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.**

People: But let Your hand be upon the One at Your right hand, the One whom You make strong for Yourself.

Leader: **Then we will never turn back from You; give us life, and we will call on Your name.**

People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

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

People: Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Isaiah 7:10-16, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 636 of the Old Testament

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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 Matthew 1:18-25 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 1 of the New Testament

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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. 113 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* GLORIA

We are now going to install our new Ruling Elders, so would Lori would you please join me

INSTALLATION OF NEW RULING ELDERS – Joe Alexander and Pat Nash

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.

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 promise, You have given us a sign of Your love through the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior, who was promised from ages past. We believe as Joseph did the message of Your presence whispered by an angel, and offer our prayers for Your world, confident of Your care and mercy for all creation. Amen.

Our last Hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 136 "*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*" GO TELL IT

***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.**

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

POINSETTIA'S

2 Elizabeth Price
2 Joe Alexander
2 Pat Nash
2 Sonia Wills

In memory of Byron and Thomas Price
In remembrance of Jesus
Christ Is Born! Halleluiah!

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 - Bible Study

WEDNESDAY – 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service – Lessons and Carols

THURSDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY

NEXT SUNDAY –

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship with installation of new Ruling Elders

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING AND ANGEL TREE

As we normally do, we will be collecting donations for our annual **Christmas Joy Offering** today, 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’S

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