

ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Eleven O'Clock

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast
Liturgist: Pat Nash

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: **The birth of Christ draws nearer.**

People: **We look for the birth of a King!**

All: **Let us worship God.**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** God of Advent, cheer us on our way as we prepare for the birth of Your Son. We experience the thrill of Your mighty acts as we celebrate Christ's birth year after year. Never let us lose sight of the reason for our joy as we embrace this Christmas season. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 143 "*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*" REGENT SQUARE

***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**

Loving God, we sometimes lose sight of You amid the tinsel and twinkling lights of Christmas decorations. We get lost in shopping, wrapping presents, and preparing food. Amid those tasks Jesus becomes lost. Our minds are too crowded to fit Him in. Forgive us when we let the secular Christmas overshadow the sacred. Let the birth of the Christ child be foremost in our minds throughout the Christmas season. (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 Jessica please come forward and join me as the congregation sings verse 2 of the insert

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pat Nash and Jessica Zinn

Congregation sings vs. 2 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 God, please illuminate Your word that it may light a fire of conviction in each of us. Let Your light shine through us on the whole community. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 please read it responsively with me.

Leader: **Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to a King's Son.**

People: May He judge Your people with righteousness and Your poor with justice.

Leader: **May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.**

People: May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy and crush the oppressor.

Leader: **May He live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**

People: May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

Leader: **In His days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**

People: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Leader: **Blessed be His glorious name forever; may His glory fill the whole earth.**

People: Amen and Amen.

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

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON Our Gospel Lesson comes from Matthew 3:1-12 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 2-3 of the New Testament

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The choir will now sing the Anthem:

ANTHEM:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Isaiah 11:1-10, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 640-641 of the Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Janet Boyanton

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

***HYMN** No. 96 "*On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry*" WINCHESTER NEW

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 I would like to bring you 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

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**

Lord, hear our prayer of thanksgiving. We are grateful for the bounty You provide us, for the gift of family and friends. We are most grateful for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who was born to redeem us. Jesus walked among humanity as one of us and, knowing our failings, died for our salvation. There is no greater gift. As we celebrate Christmas, never let us forget Your gift of Grace to all people. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

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

***HYMN** No. 132 *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”* IN DULCI JUBILO

***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 REFRESHMENTS
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

THURSDAY – 10:00 AM Art Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 3RD **Sunday of Advent**

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON/COOKIE EXCHANGE

There will be holiday luncheon/cookie exchange on December 14 following the Worship service. Please notify Ivan and Heidi Yuhanna about what dishes/food you plan to bring as soon as possible.

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 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

Travel mercies for Tiffany and Michelle Kalu

Cori's great uncle's wife passed away

Bill's mom, Delores Gast, had a heart attack and a stroke

CELEBRATIONS

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas, specifically Pat Nash, Elizabeth Price, Joe Alexander, Heidi Yuhanna, Ivan Yuhanna, and Lori Gast