

**December 8, 2024; 9:00 am**  
Second Sunday of Advent – PEACE

## **We Gather Together**

*Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.*

*Copies of the Glory to God hymnal and Common English Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary for your use during worship.*

**Gathering Music:** *please join in singing the following Christmas Carols*

GTG 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1 & 4

GTG 119 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1 & 2

GTG 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" vs. 1 & 3

**Welcome & Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin*

**Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ**

**Lighting the Candle of Peace**

*Anderson Family*

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*Light the First and Second candles of the Advent Yule log during the singing of "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah."*

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>

**\*Sung Response: GTG #85**

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v. 2

**\*Call to Confession**

*Jolene S.*

We read in Isaiah 45:22, "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." In our brokenness, let us turn to the Lord our God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, who alone is God, and seek God's mercy.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*Jolene S.*

**Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you. These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough.**

*Silent Confession*

*(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)*

You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you. Slow us down.

**Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Jesus said, "I bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever." Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you.

### **\*Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. **We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.**)*

### **\*Sung Response GTG 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

(chorus only)

### **Recognition of 2024 Liturgists:**

Eddie H., Carol W., Pete W., Mary B., Jolene S., Lew S., Joanne M., Sara S., Kay M., Jaeda R., Dave E., Wendy P., Cathy W.

## **God's Word Is Proclaimed**

### **First Reading: Luke 1:67-79 (Common English Bible)**

(page 58 in the pew Bible, page 1244 Common English Bible)

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

"Bless the Lord God of Israel

because he has come to help and has delivered his people.

**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house,  
just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.**

He has brought salvation from our enemies

and from the power of all those who hate us.

**He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and remembered his holy covenant,**

**the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.**

He has granted that we would be rescued  
from the power of our enemies  
so that we could serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes,  
for as long as we live.

**You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.**

You will tell his people how to be saved  
through the forgiveness of their sins.

**Because of our God's deep compassion,  
the dawn from heaven will break upon us,  
to give light to those who are sitting in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide us on the path of peace."**

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6 (Common English Bible)**

(page 60 in the pew Bible, page 1247 Common English Bible)

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

*A voice crying out in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.*

*Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight  
and the rough places made smooth.*

*All humanity will see God's salvation." (Isaiah 40:3-5)*

## Children's Time

*Jennifer Zander*

**\*Sung Response: GTG 795 "Healer of Our Every Ill"**

**Sermon: "The Path of Peace"**

*Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

## Prayers of the People

Arnold L.	Elaney, Gina & Randy*	Marie L.
Bob & Ollive B.	(Andy L. granddaughter, daughter, sil)	Pass Family
Brian C.	Elias B* (Laurie C grandson)	Pat D.
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Gib D.	Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)
Corinne C.	Jesse F.	Paul W.
Danielle B.	Joan K. (Marcus A. mom)	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Darren B.	Kathy A*(sis/Kevin B., sil/Kim B)	Sherry M.
Dick and Maryann*	Liam A.	Steven B.*
	Lynn M.	Vern A.* (Debra S dad)

The names in bold are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (\*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer.

If you or someone you know wants to be added to our prayer list, contact a Deacon or the church staff. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box located in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit. If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

## 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.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

## **We Respond to God's Word**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

#### **Confession of Belhar (10.7) & A Brief Statement of Faith (11.4)**

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*The Confession of Belhar was emerged in the early 1980's out of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa in response to Apartheid. The PC(USA) approved the Confession of Belhar as part of the Book of Confessions in 2016.*

*A Brief Statement of Faith was written after the reunion of the UPCUSA and the PCUS in 1983, to articulate Presbyterians' common identity amidst the realities of diversity and disagreement in both the church and the world.*

#### **Moment for Mission: Alternative Gift Fair**

*Serving Team*

#### **The Practice of Gratitude**

*In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.*

**Offering Music:** “Away in the Manger”

*Evelyn Summeril*

**\*Offertory:** GTG 145 “What Child is This” vs. 3

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**\*Sending Song GTG 106** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

**\*Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

**\*Charge and Benediction** (*Romans 5:13*)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith,  
so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Postlude:** “Bereden väg för Herran”

*arr. by Mark Sedio*

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## **NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!**

We are working with [KLT Designs](#) to upgrade our church website, and we need current photos and videos to provide a glimpse of what life is like inside our household of ministry. Please be gracious to our members who are capturing these moments – smile, and try to avoid looking directly at the camera. If you do not want to be included in these promotional elements, please let the office know in writing. If you would like to submit your own media, please email the office at [fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org).

## WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 1,2024

Individuals in Person: 120

Zoom Households: 5

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
12/01/2024	\$2729.00	Tithes/Offerings
	555.00	Special Offerings
11/25--29 2024	\$ 731.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	810.00	Special Offerings
	<hr/>	
	<b>\$4825.00</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK</b>

## Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at [www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org) [Giving page](#). (Click on 'Online Giving.')

You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

### GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone

920.922.0425

Office Email

[fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Website

[www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org)

Breeze Subdomain:

[FDLFirstPresb](http://FDLFirstPresb)

Facebook

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

YouTube

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

### December

**Deacon of the Month:**

Judy Dassow

**Elder of the Month:**

Terry Rehn

### STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

[pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org)

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Mary Robotka

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## **This Week**

### **Sunday**

9:00-10:00am

10:15-11:15am

10:15-11:15am

10:15-11:15am

11:30-12:30pm

1:00-3:00pm

3:00-4:30pm

### **December 8 Second Sunday of Advent-Peace**

Worship

Fellowship Time

Growing Connections

Angel Tree-Mary Ellen M.

Sunday School

Learning Team Meeting

Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Cantata Rehearsal

### **Monday**

10:00-11:30am

### **December 9**

Staff Meeting

### **Tuesday**

1:00-2:30pm

### **December 10**

Loving Team

### **Wednesday**

8:00-9:00am

4:00-5:00pm

5:30-7:30pm

### **December 11**

Men's Breakfast

Handbell Rehearsal

Women in Faith

### **Thursday**

6:00-7:30pm

### **December 12**

Buildings and Grounds Team

### **Sunday**

9:00-10:00am

10:15-11:15am

10:15-11:15am

10:15-11:15am

11:30-12:30pm

1:00-2:00pm

3:00-4:30pm

6:00-7:30pm

### **December 15 Third Sunday of Advent-Joy**

Worship

Dedication of Angel Tree Gifts

Fellowship Time

Growing Connections-Alternative Gift Fair-Laurie C.

Sunday School

Worship Team

PYA at the Woodlands

Cantata Rehearsal

Boy Scout Committee Meeting