

December 15, 2024; 9:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent – JOY

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 129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

GTG 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

GTG 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" vs. 1 & 2

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Grade School Sunday School

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

Light 2 purple candles and the third (pink/rose) candle 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. 3

***Call to Confession**

Wendy P.

With laughing hearts and joyous hope, we come to you, O God. With tired souls and withered dreams, we come to you, O God. In our joy and in our sorrow, we turn to you, O God. Renew us with the joy of your love. Gather us into your strong embrace, that we may know your presence and rejoice in your promised coming. With hopeful expectation, we pray together,

***Prayer of Confession**

Wendy P.

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us.

Silent Confession

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

Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. **Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Do not fear, dear children of God, for God is in our midst. Christ has taken away all judgments against us, and we are forgiven and reconciled to God. Rejoice! Again, I say, rejoice!

***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)

God's Word Is Proclaimed

First Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6 (Common English Bible)

(page 641 in the pew Bible, page 848 Common English Bible)

You will say on that day:

"I thank you, Lord.

Though you were angry with me,

your anger turned away and you comforted me.

God is indeed my salvation;

I will trust and won't be afraid.

The Lord is my strength and my shield;

he has become my salvation."

You will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

"Thank the Lord; call on God's name;

proclaim God's deeds among the peoples;

declare that God's name is exalted.

Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things;

proclaim this throughout all the earth.”
**Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion,
because the holy one of Israel is great among you.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18 (Common English Bible)

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

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.”

Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?”

He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.” With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

Sung Response: GTG 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

Sermon: "Shout and Sing for Joy"

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Prayers of the People

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

Family of Elaney R, granddaughter of Andy & Debby L.

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 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

Advent Creed – *by Dave Hopwood*

**We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.
The one who is full of patience,
who is not afraid of silence,
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,
and who does not jostle for attention.**

**We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,
whose silence overpowered their words,
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,
sometimes arriving with obvious power,
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.**

**We believe in one God
who patiently waits for us,
and who longs for us to do the same.**

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: "Christmas Time is Here" *Henry H., trombone*

***Offertory: GTG 145** "What Child is This" vs. 3

***Offertory Prayer**

***Sending Song GTG 134** "Joy to the World"

***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: "Joy to the World" *arr. by Charles W. Ore*

Blessing of the Angel Tree Gifts – in Narthex

Following the Angel Tree Gift Blessing, Pastor Craig will give instructions for carrying gifts to the Gathering Room for sorting.

- Choose a gift and look for the Family Letter on the left end of the tag.
- Locate the Identified Table in the Gathering Room and place the gift on the floor underneath. (Reference a Family Letter Identification Poster.)
- Thank you for helping. Please enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for sharing the love of God with children and families of our community.

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 08,2024

Individuals in Person: 119

Zoom Households: 4

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
12/08/2024	\$3736.00	Tithes/Offerings
12/02—6/24	2961.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	185.00	Special Offerings
	<u>\$7612.00</u>	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at 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

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Website

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Breeze Subdomain:

FDLFirstPresb

Facebook

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)

YouTube

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)

December

Deacon of the Month:

Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month:

Terry Rehn

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt

kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka

mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

This Week

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:30pm
1:00-2:00pm
3:00-4:30pm

Monday

10:00-11:30am
1:00-5:00pm
6:30-8:30pm

Tuesday

5:00-6:30pm
6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
4:00-6:00pm

Friday

6:00-7:30pm
7:00-9:00pm

Saturday

10:00-12:00pm

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
3:00-4:30pm

Monday

1:00-3:00pm

Tuesday

5:00-6:00pm
6:10-6:50pm
7:00-8:00pm

December 15

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

December 16

Staff Meeting
Blood Drive
Session Meeting

December 17

Finance Team Meeting
Endowment Meeting

December 18

Men's Breakfast
Loaves and Fishes

December 19

Piano Playground
Cribbage

December 21

Cantata Rehearsal

December 22

Worship
Fellowship Time/Growing Connections-Traditions
Sunday School
Cantata and Reception

December 23

Christmas Eve Cookie Baking

December 24 Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Worship Cookies and Candlelight
Christmas Karaoke and Christmas Treat Potluck
Christmas Eve Worship Candlelight Lessons and Carols