



Sunday, December 15, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

(479) 855-2390 www.pcbv.org
E-mail: pcbvoffice@pcbv.org

LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

LITURGIST

Bev MacDonald

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Gail Knudsen

Chancel Choir

Sandy Bachelder, Betty Bennett, Arlene Biebesheimer, Jerry Biebesheimer, Marcia Beard,
Bud Clark, Christy Clark, Lon Cross, Dick Francis, Gail Knudsen, Sharry McGuire,
Peggy McMenus, Jean Nichols, Mary Nimis-Tysk, David Riter, Florence Riter, Gary Harris,
Edie Harris, Nancy Shriner, Martha Stout, Karen Watson

WELCOME DESK

Terry Woods

HEAD USHER

Karen Schneider, Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Delores Jennings, Barry Owen, Frank Taylor, Bill Bennett

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group 5

Deloris Jennings & Dan Dovell

AUDIO/VISUAL

Tom Hackleman,

Steve Little, Jim Watson

A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
Bold type — please respond in unison.*

WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Bethlehem Lullaby”

Steven Adamson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: 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.

Light the third (pink/rose) candle of the Advent wreath.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Lift every valley, lift every voice.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

*HYMN #384

“Soon and Very Soon”

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin.
With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared.

Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary's womb is to be named Jesus. "Call him Jesus," the angel says, "For he will save the people from their sins." From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(Please take this opportunity to "pass the peace" to those around you.)

*GLORIA PATRI #581

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

ANTHEM

“An Advent Awakening”

Vicki Courtney

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

SERMON

“ Mary’s Song of Power and Praise”

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

*HYMN #143

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please fill out a prayer card or speak directly into the microphone.

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With gratitude of God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY *"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"* R.J. Hughes

***DOXOLOGY #606** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord.
Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN #134** *"Joy to the World"*

*CHARGE & BLESSING

***GOING FORTH #136** *"Go Tell It On the Mountain"* (refrain only)

***POSTLUDE** *"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"* Todd Kendall



Weekly Vista

WELCOME!

We hope you will find your time of worship with us to be very meaningful. We are an open faith community.

Please visit www.pcbv.org, or call the Church Office at 855-2390 if you would like to learn more about us and inquire about membership.

OFFICE HOURS

MON- THURS:
9 am to 3 pm
FRIDAY: CLOSED

For pastoral emergencies, please call or text Pastor Judi at 248-688-8736.

Pastor's day off is Friday, she will return calls later. To schedule an in-person appointment, please email her at jmcmillan@pcbv.org stating your need.

Deacons: December
Mary Hackleman
Gail Knudsen

12/8/2024 Attendance:
Members: 104 Guests: 14 Online: 15



You are invited to refreshments and a time of fellowship after the service.

We are looking for volunteers to be ushers. Please contact Karen Schneider if you are interested in becoming one. Also the sign up for 2025 Ushers and Greeters is in connector hallway.

Helping Hands has assigned PCBV to volunteer Saturday, December 21, noon to 4 pm. —(NOT December 14—my error at church). - Sorry for the wrong date on Sunday - Mary Nimis-Tysk

All women of the Congregation are invited to the Ladies Birthday Lunch Bunch on Friday, December 20 (note 3rd Friday), 11:30, at BV Bar & Grill (Country Club), 98 Clubhouse Drive, 479-855-8130. It doesn't have to be your birthday month, just come and enjoy good food, friends and fellowship. Sign up in Connector Hallway so we know how many are going. Thank you.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship—Advent
Collect Christmas Joy Offering
3-4pm— Caroling at the Cottages

Monday, December 16

1pm—3pm—PEO Chpt CD (F/H)
2-3pm Last Book Study (Parlor)

Tuesday, December 17

10:30am-1PM—Writing Group (P)
5:30pm—6:30pm Men's AA (A)

Wednesday, December 18

5:00pm Bell Choir
6:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 19

1-3pm—Ozark Hills Hikers (C)
2-3pm Last Book Study (F/H)

Friday, December 20

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
11:30AM—Ladies Birthday Lunch Bunch at BV Bar & Grill Country Club
1:00pm Busy Hands (Lobby)

Saturday, December 21

NO EVENTS

Sunday, December 22

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship—Advent 4
Christmas Music Celebration



Joy

WHAT ARE YOU JOYFUL FOR?

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, designed for writing a response. The box is outlined in black and features decorative scrollwork at the top-left and bottom-left corners, giving it the appearance of a scroll or a page from a book. The interior of the box is completely blank, providing space for the user to write their answer to the question above.

Upcoming Holiday Events:

Advent Continues:

Today, Sunday, December 15th, 3-4pm: Christmas Caroling at the Cottages. Meet at church at 2:45pm

Sunday, December 22nd, Worship will be a Christmas Music Celebration.

Tuesday, December 24th—Christmas Eve, Candlelight/ Communion Service at 5pm

Wednesday, December 25th— Christmas Lunch at noon in Fellowship Hall.

