

Sunday, December 22, 2024

FOURTH 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

Bell Choir

Arlene Beibesheimer, Elaine Crane, Gail Cowdin, Jan Grim, Gail Knudsen Florence Riter, Cathie Whittenberger, Sharon Warner, Karen Watson, Fran Zimmerman

> WELCOME DESK Gail Winsor

HEAD USHER Karen Schneider, Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS Delores Jennings, Barry Owen, Frank Taylor, Bill Bennett

> COFFEE HOSTS Shepherd Group 1 Ron and Kay Burroughs

> 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

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Christmas Gloria"

Lloyd Larsen

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

Arr. R.C. Wilson

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Liturgist: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation. Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

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#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:46)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sign God's praise. Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

\*HYMN # 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

The prophet Micah tells us that the "one of peace" will come from Bethlehem. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us confess our sins and set ourselves on Christ's path.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kin-dom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

#### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS** (Micah 5:4-5)

"And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ...
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace." In the name of 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

#### **CHOIR CANTATA**

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Every Valley" Joseph Martin

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** "Still is The Night" Joseph Martin

**DUET:** "What Child Is This/Child of the Poor" Hound & Fox

(Carrie White & Coby Clark)

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 1:39-45

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Listen!" Joel Raney

TRIO: "Baby in a Manger" Douglas Nolan (Christy Clark, Arlene Biebersheimer, Jerry Beibersheimer)

#### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

Luke 2:8-15

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those who he favors!

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** "How Could the Shepherds Know" Brad Nix

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Christmas Bells Are Ringing" Mark Hayes

#### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

#### PASTORAL PRAYER & 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

In this season of generosity, let us remember from whom all our blessings flow. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

OFFERTORY "The Best Christmas Medley Ever" John Dare Performed by Bell Choir

\*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

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

#### WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

#### **INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*HYMN #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

\*CHARGE & BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE "Joyous Morning" Gerald Peterson



# 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 12/15/2024 Attendance: Members: 108 Guests: 10 Online: 12



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 signup for 2025 Ushers and Greeters is in connector hallway.



The Christmas Carolers last Sunday

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Dec. 25 Arlene Biebersheimer

Dec 26 Barbara Greigo

Dec 26 Eleanor Springstead

Dec 27 Jerry August

#### CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22 9am Christian Ed Class 10am Worship—Advent 4 Christmas Music Celebration

Monday, December 23 NO EVENTS Church office closes at noon

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Church office closes at noon
5-6pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight service—
Communion

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12-1pm-Christmas Meal (F/H)

5:30pm -6:30pm Men's AA (A)

Thursday, December 26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm Busy Hands (Lobby)

Saturday, December 28 NO EVENTS

Sunday, December 29
9am Christian Ed Class
10am Lessons in Carols Worship
Service

Starting in January, there will be a monthly game night hosted by one of the Shepherd Groups. The first will be Monday, January 27th, 3-5pm.