

December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Wade

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE 3RD ADVENT CANDLE

Jessica, Tyler, Noah, and Colson Tessman
"Advent's Holy Light" Raney

You are invited to join in singing (the music is on an insert):

Lord, we are waiting for peace to reign.

Lord, we are listening for love's refrain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to unite

in the beauty and wonder of Advent's holy light.

Then, join in this litany:

When we think of the countless blessings that fill our lives

Our hearts are filled with joy.

For the warmth of relationships

and the bonds we share with family and friends

Our hearts are filled with joy.

When we pause to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature

Our hearts are filled with joy.

For the giving and receiving of simple acts of kindness

Our hearts are filled with joy.

Then we will repeat the refrain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+**HYMN: GTG #82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In your presence, Holy God,

we confess that we need repentance.

We have broken your commands against idolatry.

We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.

We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid.

Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,

for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news

and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Do not worry. Live in peace. Thanks be to God!

HYMN: GTG #102 NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... God, you are in our midst; **renew us in your love.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

by Lori Filka

(adapted from Matthew and Luke)

"The Christmas Story:

featuring the talents of:

Beckett Barber

Violet Mackey

Jill Castle

Erin McGonigal

Nora Edmondson

Ben Pinches

Jacob Edmondson

Sam Pinches

Calvin Hammond

Keren Tayong

Jo Hammond

Caidra VanDyke

Leah Harkness

Ella Wurzler

Tyler Harkness

Grace Wurzler

Jasmine Leffew

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

+**HYMN: GTG #93** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Spiritual

+**RESPONSE: GTG #113** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

+**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*

(England, 1647)

Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-20 O.T. page 676

Rejoice in God

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH) Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord GOD is my stronghold and my song,

and has become my Savior.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And in that day you will say:

Give thanks and call upon the name of the LORD.

Make known among the nations what the LORD has done;

proclaim that the name of the LORD is exalted.

Sing praises, for the LORD has done great things;

let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout, and sing for joy, O people of God,
for great in your midst is the Holy One.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philippians 4:4-7 N.T. page 154

Rejoice, the Lord is near

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3:7-18 N.T. page 46

One more powerful is coming

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE Isa. 40:8; Mark 13:31

Heaven and earth will pass away

but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Emmanuel, Expected Jesus" arr. Schram

Sanctuary Choir with Mira Cheng (cello)

MEDITATION Rev. Bill Pinches

"Shout, and Sing for Joy, O People of God"

+**HYMN: GTG #96** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" WINCHESTER NEW

+**CHARGE**

Go to love and serve the Lord, showing mercy to all.

Amen.

+**BLESSING**

May the peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,

for whom we watch and wait.

Alleluia!

+**CHORAL BENEDICTION** DONA NOBIS PACEM

POSTLUDE Schubert

"Moments Musicaux, Opus 94, No. 3" with "King of Kings"

**You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.**

It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist: Gin Gibson

Greeters: Jerry Ambrose and Vern Schrock

Next Week's Greeters: Kurt Immekus and Debbie Shellenbarger

Sound: Marty Subject

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Isaac Reyes

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 35. How can Jesus be truly God and yet also truly human at the same time?

The mystery of Jesus Christ's divine-human unity passes our understanding; only faith given by the Holy Spirit enables us to affirm it. When Holy Scripture depicts Jesus as someone with divine power, status and authority, it presupposes his humanity. And when it depicts him as someone with human weakness, neediness and mortality, it presupposes his deity. We cannot understand how this should be, but we can trust that the God who made heaven and earth is free to become God incarnate and thus to be God with us in this wonderful and awe-inspiring way.

CREDITS

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

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www.masonpresbyterian.org

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches

Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick

Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka

Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse

Office Manager: Jessica Tessman

Financial Secretary: Jess Weber

Choral Music Accompanist: Le Ji

Sexton: Eric VanDyke

Office Assistant: Nancy Sue MacDonald

Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey

Child Care: Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

ELDERS

Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.

Class of 2025: Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.

Class of 2026: Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

Elders-Elect: Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles (three-year terms); Greg Lang (one-year term)

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak (*Secretary*), Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.

Class of 2025: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

Class of 2026: Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal

Deacons-Elect: Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

EVENTS THIS WEEK

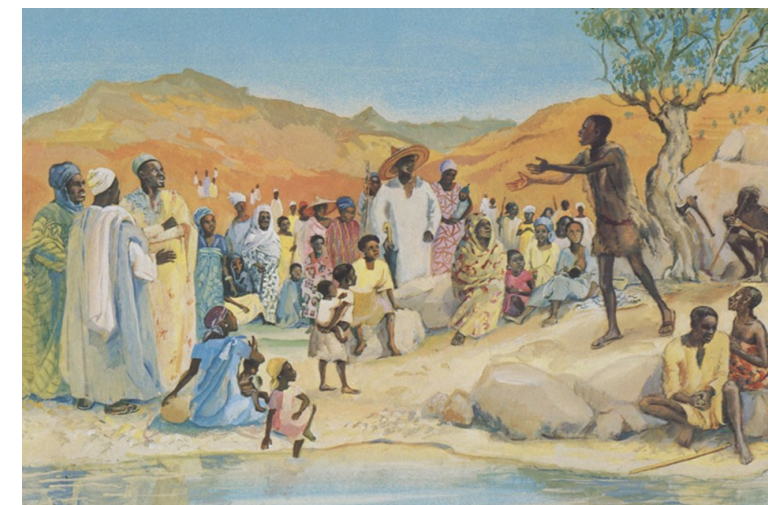
Today	Church Potluck Dinner	11:30 am
Wednesday	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Prayer Fellowship (<i>in the Chapel</i>)	12:00pm
	Wonderful Wednesday	4:00—6:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
Thursday	Session	7:00 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
Saturday	Deacons Christmas Gift Distribution	
	Special Choir Rehearsal	10:00 am
	Yarners	10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Mary Lou French	Dec. 17	Jessica Tessman	Dec. 19
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Mason First Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent



John the Baptist Preaching in the Desert
by JESUS MAFA, 1973
Cameroon

*A warm and caring Christ-centered community of faith,
actively serving and nurturing one another and our neighbors,
embracing diversity, and fostering spiritual growth*