

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Just and joyful God, we bring our gifts with hearts that rejoice
in your goodness to us, in Christ and in creation. Send your
Holy Spirit to bless them and us with the power to shine the
light of Christ into lives where Jesus can turn despair into joy. Amen

***HYMN** “Hymn of Joy” (see insert)

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** “While We are Waiting, Come” 92, verse 1

***POSTLUDE**



OHIO UNITED
Presbyterian Church



*Loving God,
Loving Neighbor;
Helping Our Neighbors to Love God*
December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent
Chancel Choir Cantata

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Kalyn Stewing

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Let us share this peace with one another.

(please greet those around you with signs of peace)

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of God.

WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

Sorrow may last for a night but joy comes in the morning.

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

Sorrow may last for a night but joy comes in the morning.

In the silence, we long for a comforting word.

Sorrow may last for a night but joy comes in the morning.

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

Sorrow may last for a night but joy comes in the morning.

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.

Sorrow may last for a night but joy comes in the morning.

Candle Lighting

Today we light three candles. The first candle radiates the hope given through Jesus Christ. The second candle calls us to embrace and extend Christ's peace to an unsettled world. The third candle extends the promise of joy to restless

souls. Though the darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true joy that sustains a weary people.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** (unison)

**God of joy
you are our strength and our song.
You gather those who have strayed from you
and welcome them back to your side.
You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit,
and accompany those who walk alone.
Through your great love and mercy,
you transform us all into more than we ever thought we could be.
We will trust in you and not be afraid.
With joy, we sing of your glory
and proclaim your saving power to those near and far
as our Creating Father, the redeeming Christ and guiding Holy Spirit.
Amen**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**All knowing God,
we know perfect joy only comes through faith in you,
yet we seek it elsewhere.
In search of comfort, we indulge our desires.
In search of love, we hide from our faults.
In search of approval, we spend beyond our means.
Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places.
Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy,
and guide us to discover what is honorable, just, and pleasing in
your sight. Amen.**

Silence is kept...

DECLARATION OF PARDON

The scriptures say, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The forgiveness we seek is ours through the grace of Jesus Christ. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

***RESPONSE** "Wait for the Lord" 90

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

BELLS "Away in a Manger"

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3:7-18

CANTATA "The Ballad of Bethlehem: A Timeless Story of God's Love"

Pepper Choplin

Voice in the Wilderness (Prepare the Way)

The Ballad of Bethlehem

Bethlehem Prophecy

The Ballad of Bethlehem – The Birth

Still Gentle Mary

The Ballad of Bethlehem – The Shepherds

I Hear the Angels Shouting Glory!

The Ballad of Bethlehem – The Wise Men

Only the Wise

A Thrill of Hope

The Ballad of Bethlehem – Underscore

Shout with the Shepherds

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen

OFFERING

We make our offering today with joyful hearts, anticipating our celebration of God's gift to us in Christ Jesus. Know that our gifts may touch lives in deep need this season with the joy we have received in Jesus' name.

*** RESPONSE** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday School

No Sunday School this week

Adult Sunday School–9am to 9:45am

Sunday, December 15–Cantata

Sunday December 15–Bells play

Monday, December 16–Youth Group Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 18–Story Time @9:30 or 10:30

Thursday, December 19–Choir Rehearsal @7pm

Sunday, December 22–Church Service @10am

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve–Service @6pm

The OUPC Christmas Card mailbox is in the Narthex ready to be filled with your Christmas greetings. If you wish to send cards to fellow church members who attend regularly, bring your cards and put them in the slots that are in alphabetical order. You might want to check your slot to see if you have mail. While you are spreading good cheer you will be saving money on postage stamps that you might consider making an extra donation for upcoming projects like repaving the parking lot.

Keep Them in Your Prayers: Donna Olexick, Rich Kerlin, Paul (Karen Keller's friend), Lynn Smith, Peter Kerlin, Marcia Davis, Jack Gennaro, Tom Owczarzak, Paul Kulha, Jim Williams

In the Military: William Barth

Those who are not able to worship regularly: Sarah Jane Shaffer, Dolores Skinner, Lois Davie, Pat & Tony Wozniak, Ella Mae Speiker, Edna Petrella, Dorothy Elko, Irene Gartley, Libby Urick, Trudy Boggs, Betty Solinski, Ed & Evelyn Lawson

OHIO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1236 LONGVUE AVE.

ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001

Our website is: www.ohiopresbyterian.org

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@ohiounitedpresbyterianchurch1974/streams>

- Sunday worship 10:00 am
- Sunday School for our younger members (Grades Pre-K - 6th grade) during worship

Pastor:

Kalyn D. Stevwing

pastorkalyn@gmail.com

724-841-8145

Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Connell

Church office hours Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00

Church phone #: 724-378-3690 ext. 3

Church email: office@ohioupchurch.com

Choir Director: Amanda Collins

Worship Leader/Pianist: Alli Feszko

Custodian: Monica Ward

Treasurer: Chris Hurni

Youth Coordinator: Peggy Franzese

Organist Emeritus: Shirley Fluharty

OUR SESSION

CLASS OF 2026: Joe Glatz, Jennifer Davis

Rich Palmer (2T), John Martin (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Chris Otto (2T), Casey Honess (2T),

Patti Strominger, Chris Mathias

CLASS OF 2024: Gina Arzberger (2T), Rayna Knox

Paul Magee (2T), Wendi Rybicki

OUR DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026: Dave Kocher, Ivonne Holsinger

Greg Holsinger, Dianne Kanitra (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Dawn Psik, Terri Owczarzak

Denise Matthias, Ken Jones

CLASS OF 2024: Jeff Barth, Bob Hurni

Eleanor Pike, Corinna Petrella

