

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY

**NORTH  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*Making Disciples -  
Making a Difference*

December 14 2025, 9:30 am  
Third Sunday of Advent  
[www.northpres.church](http://www.northpres.church)  
607-734-2977

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

*Power of the eternal Father,  
help me.  
Wisdom of the Son,  
enlighten the eye of my understanding.  
Tender mercy of the Holy Spirit,  
unite my heart to yourself.  
Eternal God,  
restore health to the sick,  
and life to the dead.  
Give us a voice, your own voice,  
to cry out to you for mercy for the world.  
You, light, give us light.  
You, wisdom, give us wisdom.  
You, supreme strength, strengthen us. Amen.  
Catherine of Siena (1347 – 1380)*

↑Please stand, as you are able. ↓Please be seated.

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**QUIETING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS**

*The Lord be with you!  
And also with you!*

*Let us quiet our hearts and our minds as we gather to worship the Lord.*

**PRELUDE**

*The Stranger of Galilee*

**GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST WITH THE LIGHTING  
OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*This is the day the Lord has made!  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

*We watch and wait for Christ's coming. We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

*We light this candle in hope.  
We light this candle in peace.  
We light this candle in joy.*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 35, verse 1

Let us pray together:

God of hope,  
God of peace.  
God of joy,  
you are our salvation;  
we trust in you and are not afraid.  
Lead us to draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.  
God of promise, God of hope,  
into our darkness come. Amen.

HYMN *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* GTG #85, vs. 3

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish the darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway,  
for the King of glory.

↓CALL TO ADMIT OUR SINS AND TURN TO GOD

*We have sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.*

ADMITTING OUR SINS AND TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER  
(Unison)

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you – for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins and free us from selfishness, so that we may choose your will and obey your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

*Hear the good news! The Lord God, the One who sets the captives free, who opens the eyes of those who cannot see, and who lifts up those who are in the dust, is the One who gives us grace in Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

Thanks be to God!

↑GIVING GLORY TO GOD *Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)* GTG #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST *(Responsive)*

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Let us live by and be guided by the Holy Spirit in all things, including how we treat one another.*

*The peace of the Lord be with you all.*  
And also with you.

*Please exchange the peace of our Lord with one another in the way you are comfortable.*

↑GIVING PRAISE TO GOD IN SONG  
*O Come, Divine Messiah*

↓CHANCEL CHOIR *Light the Advent Candles*

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

↓PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE AND WISDOM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Holy God, you are our hope and our strength. By the power of your Holy Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *The Gospel According to Matthew 11:2-11*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

GATHERING OF CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

The Book of Isaiah 35:1-10

*This is the word of God for the people of God.*  
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

↑RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD IN SONG

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God* GTG #99, vs. 1, 3 & 4

PROCLAIMING WHAT WE BELIEVE WITH THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

↓GIVING OF OURSELVES TO GOD IN THANKSGIVING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING OF MUSIC

*Footsteps of Jesus*

↑DOXOLOGY *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* GTG #606

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

↓PRAYER DEDICATING OUR GIFTS TO GOD’S WORK

PRAYING FOR GOD’S MERCY

We especially pray for ...

We give you thanks for all that is good in our lives and all that you have given to us. May we have wisdom and strength to follow and do your will. We thank you especially for ...

We pray all these prayers and the prayers deep within our hearts as we pray the prayer your Son taught us, and we are bold to pray:

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

BEING SENT FORTH TO LOVE AS CHRIST LOVES US

↑GIVING THANKS TO GOD IN SONG

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* GTG #100

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

THE HOUR OF WORSHIP HAS ENDED;  
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COVER ART: <https://crosspointchurchonline.org/the-candle-of-joy-december-10th-2023/>  
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Chancel flowers for  
Sunday, December 14,  
were given to  
the glory of God by  
Jim Wainwright  
in loving memory of  
my wife, Candy.



**Christmas Caroling** to our  
homebound friends, this afternoon.

We will meet  
at the church  
at 2:00 pm.  
Refreshments  
will be  
enjoyed after  
caroling.  
**Please come  
join  
in the fun!**



**Weekly Advent Services**  
will be Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
December 3, 10 & 17



**December 14 worship volunteers:**

|                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tech Booth:        | Bill Furnas                    |
| Ushers:            | Amanda Korfmann, Joe Rolls     |
| Wee Worship:       | Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea      |
| Worship Assistant: | Linda Palmer                   |
| Counters:          | Cindy & Kurt Kalweit           |
| Greeter:           | Linda Palmer                   |
| Coffee Hour:       | Cindy Kalweit, Annette Stevens |

**December 21 worship volunteers:**  
*\*Please let the office know of any  
changes to this schedule\**

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Tech Booth:        | Worship at First Pres. |
| Ushers:            | Worship at First Pres. |
| Wee Worship:       | Worship at First Pres. |
| Worship Assistant: | Worship at First Pres. |
| Counters:          | Worship at First Pres. |
| Greeter:           | Worship at First Pres. |
| Coffee Hour:       | Worship at First Pres. |

FROM THE DEACON'S LIST  
PLEASE SEND A CARD TO:

Willma Padgett  
3015 Lake St.  
Elmira Heights, NY 14903



**Please remember in your prayers the following individuals  
who are part of the NPC Family:**

**Nancy Varnum**

**Sunday, December 14**

9:30 am - Worship Service  
10:30 am - Coffee Hour  
10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice  
10:55 am - Youth Praise Band  
11:00 am - Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant  
2:00 pm - Christmas Caroling

**Monday, December 15**

10:00 am - Food Pantry  
5:30 pm - TOPS

**Tuesday, December 16**

8:45 am - Yoga  
1:15 pm - Staff Mtg  
1:30-3:00 pm - Pastor's open door office hours

**Wednesday, December 17**

Bulletin Info Due  
10:00 am - Food Pantry  
12:00 pm - Bible Study  
1:30-4:00 pm - Pastor's open door office hours  
6:00 pm - Bell Choir  
6:30 pm - Praise Band  
7:00 pm - Advent Service  
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir

**Thursday, December 18**

8:45 am - Yoga  
10:00 am - Catholic Charities Gateways Dinner  
12:00 pm - Men's Bible Study

**Friday, December 19**

10:00 am - Food Pantry  
5:15 pm - AA Meeting

**Saturday, December 20**

**Sunday, December 21**

10:30 am - Worship Service & Cantata at First Pres., Elmira  
2:00 pm - Carols & Cookies  
6:00 pm - Board of Session

**Music Ministry**

**Sundays:**  
The Good News Singers' Practice - 10:45 am  
Youth Praise Band Practice - 10:55 am  
**Wednesdays:**  
Bell Choir Practice - 6:15 pm  
Praise Band Practice - 7:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Practice - 7:30 pm



**Second Place East, Inc.**

Our December donation request for  
Second Place East, Inc. is  
**Mops & Pails**  
Please see the information  
regarding this important mission  
in the narthex.

If you would like to donate Chancel flowers  
(suggested donation of \$45), please contact  
Lori Lee at 607-739-3176. Available  
Sundays in January and February 2026  
are: January 4, 11, 18 & 25 and  
February 1, 8, 15 & 22.

*Please take the flowers home to  
enjoy after the service.*

If you are not in the sanctuary on  
your chosen date, we will be in touch  
with you to make a plan.



Please join us for  
Coffee Hour  
weekly, after worship.



The special  
offering for the  
month of  
December is:  
**Christmas Offering**

**The NPC Food Pantry is  
in need of the following  
donation items:**

Canned Soup  
Canned Pasta  
Peanut Butter



In addition, if your dentist  
gives you toothbrushes, floss,  
or toothpaste and you don't  
need it, the pantry does!

**Monetary donations are  
always welcome and  
appreciated!**

**Sunday School and  
Bible Study**

**Sunday School**  
for all ages  
11:00 am weekly.

**Men's Bible Study**  
Thursdays at 12:00 pm.

**Wednesday Noon  
Bible Study**  
For more information,  
please contact Wendy  
Swatling.



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