

WHAT'S THE WORD?

at CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 18, 2022 4th Sunday of Advent

The last day for submitting poinsettia dedications to the church office is Monday, December 19. If you don't have a dedication form, you can email your dedication. The cost is still only \$8 per plant, and you may take yours on Christmas Eve.

The Mitten Tree is joyously decorated now with hats, scarves and mittens for both adults and children. Add to the joy of it by making a donation of your own; male adult gloves and socks are particularly welcome. The hats, mittens, scarves, gloves and socks will be divided between Bread of Life Food Pantry and Cathedral Kitchen in Camden.



This year we will add a paper chain made of links you will be able to purchase for \$1 in the narthex as you enter the church or leave! All the money collected will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for their work with the people of Ukraine. Let's hope for a chain that circles the tree a lot!

Sunday Stuff

December 24, 7pm
Christmas Eve Service at
Rev. William Gaskill
will deliver the message

Poinsettias will adorn the chancel and be removed by those who dedicated them.

December 25
Christmas Day

A morning of glorious music and scripture
Chancel Flowers will be dedicated by
J. Edward Gilmore.



CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Serving God and God's People Since 1877

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

10:00am

*Please rise in body or in spirit. Please sign the worship pad found in each pew

PRELUDE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly!

Polish carol, arr. A. Giamanco

Prepare the Way

arr. B. Logan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Emens Family

CHORAL INTROIT

Prepare the Way for the Lord

G. Govenor

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalms 100 and 117*

Leader: Praise the LORD who says to my lord, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.

People: We thank the LORD with our whole hearts in the company of His people.

Leader: The LORD sends out from Zion; His mighty scepter for He will rule in the face of our foes.

People: Great are the works of the LORD, considered by all who delight in them.

Leader: The LORD is at your right hand, to shatter kings in the day of His wrath. So, praise the LORD!

People: The LORD's Name be praised

*GATHERING HYMN #145

Of the Father's Love Begotten

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Lord, in this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas. We confess we also often prefer being sentimental to being sacrificial. Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as "holy days." Pour peace into our lives and let us be bearers of Your peace to others. Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest Gift of all. In the holy Name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

A RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 5:1-5a

Reader: Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us.

People: They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

Reader: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,

People: "out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Reader: Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

People: He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

Reader: And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

People: And he will be their peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Hurry, Shepherds, Run!

C. Lee, D. Wagner

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #809

Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC & READING "Joy of Christmas, A Childhood Memory" by Emmy Arnold

What Child Is This? and It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Emily Blackman

Aeryn Gilmore

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-2:12

This is the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Thanks be to God

SERMON

"A Tale of Two Kings"

*CLOSING HYMN #167

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

J. Stainer

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

(As you leave the sanctuary, share greetings of Christ's peace with one another.)

*POSTLUDE

And the Glory of the Lord from "Messiah"

G. F. Handel

Many thanks to Rev. Richard Herman for leading us in worship this morning.

Thanks to the many volunteers who provide support for our worship services;
Weekly A/V support by Jerry Blackman, Valaree Bower Gilbert, Michael Gilbert,
Lori Gilmore and/or John Cecchini

This morning we thank Georgie Ackers and Nedra Cawley for greeting
and passing the offering plate and Pat Bruncker for hosting our Fellowship time.

*I wish I could be alive when Christ returns because
I would like to be the first earthly monarch to
take my crown and lay it at His feet.
~ Elizabeth I of England*



Prayers for: our President and all our elected officials, all world leaders, our men and women in uniform, peace in the world, victims of natural disasters, those endangered by war and violence; Calvary's mission and ministries; all our friends and members at Calvary, and in particular: Linda Blackman; Joanne Davis; Sally Dinn; Dovieanna & Anthony Falconiero; Ed Gilmore; Ed Hartmann; Jean Markovitz; Nathan Richards, friend of Bob Cornatzer; Barbara Turner, mother of Karen Gilbert; Ellen Hoag, mother of Rob Hoag; Trevor, nephew of Dave & Janny McGrath; Phil Mesmer, husband of Kathy Mesmer; Jesse James, nephew of Terry Pahl; Chea and Roxanne, friends of Alyx Reinhardt; Steve Harker, husband of Cindy Harker; Doreen Freeman, our sister in Christ.

The poinsettias this morning are dedicated to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of those who have gone before us, and in honor of those whose love we share today.



*Please pray for peace and the people of Ukraine,
and count your blessings for another day
free from suffering and violence.*