



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
Stone Presbyterian Church
A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
December 19, 2021 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent



We Gather to Worship the One Who Is Coming

PRELUDE "Creator of the Stars of Night"
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

David N. Johnson



POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Like Mary, we praise God wholeheartedly, from the depths of our souls.

PEOPLE: For God has not forgotten us, insignificant as we feel ourselves to be.

LEADER: God's name is Holy; God's compassion lasts from one generation to another.

PEOPLE: God has scattered the proud and shown that kings and rulers are nothing special.

LEADER: God has lifted up the lowly, and given food to the hungry.

ALL: God has kept the promises made to the people of God; God will always be merciful. Thanks be to God!

+ **HYMN #2** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" **HYFRYDOL**
(Those who are able may stand.)

THE 4TH ADVENT CANDLE – GIFT OF LOVE – Judy LaGasse and Ceil Gilbert
(Unison prayer:)

God of love, surprise us with your love. Come to us as a babe in a manger when we expect a warrior king. Bring light to parts of our lives that we don't even realize are in darkness. Prod us, encourage us, fill us, sustain us with the love that only you can give. Amen.

+ **THE ADVENT GIVING –**
The Country Pantry Love Offering



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Mary was blessed in the angelic announcement of the coming of Jesus.

All: Blessed with the questioning, blessed with acceptance, blessed with joy at God's precious gift, blessed with a sense of justice.

Leader: Mary was blessed in caring for the baby Jesus.

All: Blessed with surprise, blessed with endurance, blessed with a good partner in fearful times, blessed with memories.

Leader: But later on, Mary was disturbed by the lifestyle of Jesus, kept away when she wanted to come close to her son.

All: Disturbed by his new unusual vocation, disturbed by his popularity, disturbed by his distancing from his family.

(Time for silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: We too are blessed through the coming of Jesus.

All: Blessed with joy, blessed with fresh insight, blessed with his spirit of compassion, blessed with his burning zeal for justice.

Leader: Yet, like Mary, we have been challenged by aspects of his life.

All: Challenged by his level of commitment, challenged by his empathy, challenged by his acceptance.

Leader: God enables each one of us to see our life and its goals more clearly through the life of Jesus.

All: The old ways are at an end!
Peace and a new way of life is ours for the asking.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

+**THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with each one of you.

All: And also with you.

We Listen for the Word of God

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Micah 5: 2-5a *A ruler will come from Bethlehem*
 The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God**

Solo "Mary, Too" Richard Avery & Donald Marsh

Luke 1:39-55 Mary visits Elizabeth and The Magnificat
Told by Donna Goodfriend

SERMON "Mary's Journeys" Peg Ward

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+ HYMN #498 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" KINGDOM

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles Creed"
(Traditional Version – *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 14)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional, p. 16)
"debts/debtors"

OFFERTORY "The Advent of Our King" Healey Willan

+A DOXOLOGY (THE OLD 100TH)
ALL: God's love is come at Christmas time,
God's love in Jesus brightly shines,
God's spirit love is on the move,
our gifts are blessed and shared in love.

+ PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Leader: For the supreme gift of Jesus, we thank you, Living God.
All: As bells ring out,
As joy breaks out,
As light shines out,
We recognize the blessings of these gifts we bring,
And we rejoice in Christ's name! Amen

We Go Out in Love

+ HYMN#55 "The Boy-Child of Mary" BLANTYRE

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP

December 19, 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ 10:30 a.m.



The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.

All the People, Ministers

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Scott Leonard, Commissioned Pastor
G. Roberts Kolb, Director of Music
Gerald G. Platz, Pastor Emeritus
Janice LeFrois, Office Administrator
Lee Kelso, Sexton

www.stonepres.org ~ www.facebook.com/stonepres
www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian

Welcome Peg Ward: She retired as co-pastor of the Three Voices Presbyterian Church serving



Vernon, Verona and Oneida Castle in January 2021. Prior to that call, Peg served as Pastor of the Vernon Center Presbyterian Church. Her original affiliation with the Presbytery of Utica was as Program Director at First Presbyterian Church Utica from 1988 until she was commissioned as a lay pastor in 2001. In their retirement Peg and her husband Greg (a marriage which will be 52 years in the making tomorrow!) are enjoying travel and visits with her 7 grown children, 16 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren who afford them the opportunity to visit Pennsylvania and the Florida Keys on a regular basis.

Today, the fourth Sunday in Advent is LOVE SUNDAY. Our offering for **LOVE** will be directed to **The Country Pantry**, our wonderful local food bank that provides foods and fresh produce to families and individuals whose resources are inadequate for consistent provision of food. Serving people in Clinton, Clark Mills and Westmoreland, the Country Pantry also provides food for holiday meals and special assistance to children through summertime Kids-Paks, fall school supplies and Christmas gift programs. Presently The Country Pantry is serving an ever-growing number of families. As is our custom, this Advent offering will be separate from our regular giving. Please be generous in supporting The Country Pantry and the clients who depend on it for their daily food. Thank you.

Come join us at the Clinton United Methodist Church on Tuesday, December 21st, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. for the Longest Night Ecumenical Service conducted by the Clinton Area Ministerium. This is a special service of prayer, silence, and candlelight designed especially for those experiencing grief, loss or hardship during the holiday season. This service offers a sacred, gentle space to gather, remember and comfort.

The Country Pantry: For Christmas they are focusing on collecting **children's lap blankets (but will take adult ones as well), canned soup, fruit and vegetables.** Any donation of food or money will be accepted. As always, the pantry is very thankful for your support.

Fair Trade Shoppe: Come and check out our roomful of beautiful, handwoven baskets from Ghana, Bangladesh and Guatemala; great to fill with homemade treats, towels or magazines. Our beautiful coiled spiced trivet keeps your beverage, kettle or plate warm while releasing the scent of cinnamon and cloves, made from 100% hand-woven Guatemalan fabric.



fill

Our colorful terracotta nativity scene brightens any home around Christmas and is a perfect faith-based decoration for any holiday festivities. Each set contains 8 figurines dressed in handwoven Guatemalan fabric with hand-painted faces, 4



Our

hand-painted animals and a lovely natural terracotta plate on which to display them. We also have a large selection of grinder seasonings, cotton and wool socks, unique and elegant jewelry, ivory candlesticks, journals, hidden compartment boxes and **MANY** more wonderful Christmas gift ideas!

Hope House: This month's wish list includes the following: **shampoo conditioner, soap, toothpaste, razors and VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN COMMIT TO ONE OR TWO REGULAR PICKUPS A WEEK.** IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL HOPE HOUSE AT 315-793-3723. Any donation that you designate for food or personal needs will be greatly appreciated. Any questions, contact Ceil Gilbert (853-8289) or ceilgilbert@yahoo.com



THE CALENDAR



Tuesday – 12/21/21: 6:00 p.m.
Thursday – 12/23/21: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday – 12/24/21: 7:00 p.m.
Saturday – 12/25/21: MERRY CHRISTMAS
Sunday – 12/26/21: 10:30 a.m.

Longest Night Ecumenical Service
Fair Trade Shoppe
Christmas Eve Service
Office Closed
Worship



Want to see what else is on the calendar? Go to our Web page – stonepres.org & click on the “CALENDAR ICON”

Greeter, Host: Bev Miller

Prayer Chain: If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please go to our website www.stonepres.org and click on “Prayer Request”

Members/Friends of the Week:

Scott & Helen Leonard
Tom & Nancy Rayne
Doug & Janice Reed



Prayer Request:

Lauralyn's Family
Lauralyn & Rob Kolb
Bonnie Felshaw
Patty Lawson
Michael Britton
Sara Tolliver
Erin Todd
Pat Joseph
Lori Chamberlain
Sue Raitt
Dave & Trish Harris
Jeff Kolb
Jim Kubat
Debra LaFont

