

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa

10:00 A. M.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Rev. Michael Sydnor

PRELUDE

Janice Ploeger, Organist

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF JOY

Jim & Cathy McDonough

People: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

First Sunday of Advent

Reader: The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

People: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Second Sunday of Advent

Reader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

People: the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

Third Sunday of Advent

Reader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

People: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

(Light two purple candles and a pink one.)

Reader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

People: Amen.¹

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder

¹ Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 164). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

² © Presbyterian Outlook, 2024 Liturgy written by John Wurster and provided for free distribution.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder

Elder: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: Lift every valley, lift every voice.

Elder: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!²

Elder: Let us worship God.

***HYMN “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”**

#562

INVOCATION (Please be seated)

Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

Elder

Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen. ³ (Time of silent prayer). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor

***GLORIA PATRI**

#623

³ © Presbyterian Outlook, 2024 Liturgy written by John Wurster and provided for free distribution.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 Elder

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

**Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 Pastor

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor
Our Church
Our School
Sue Grieme
Carol Wendel

(Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus,
Eisenberg 4-407, 201 West Center St, Rochester, MN 55902

Florene Cork
Denise King
Terri Rininger
Scott & Velma Woodke
Wanda Jeppeson
Veronica Moyle
Rod Plagman
Richard Morgan
Mark Diersen
Dexter Meseck
Steve Schaefer
Ken Fells Jr.

PRAYER FOR CHURCHES

December 15, 2024

Theological Institutions in the PC (USA)

December 22, 2024

Pray for the Commissioned Ruing Elders in the Presbytery



BIRTHDAY WISHES

Joann Reimers (Dec.17th)
David Siebrecht (Dec. 21st)

Jim McDonough (Dec. 20th)
Bruce Mentzer (Dec. 26th)

you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S TIME

HYMN “Open My Eyes, That I May See” #381

SERMON “The Winnowing Fork”

*APOSTLE’S CREED

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #625

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” #151

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION SONG “Freely, Freely” (V. 1) #447

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

*POSTLUDE

(*Those who are able please stand.)

2024 PER CAPITA

2024 Per Capita amount is \$53.95. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".

SCHEDULE FOR LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dec. 15th

Jim & Cathy McDonough

Dec. 22nd

The Jacobson Family

Dec. 24th

The Franken Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2024

15 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. In-Person Worship

ALL THE GIVING TREE gifts must be brought back to the church on Sunday.

PLEASE have all your gifts of warmth at the church no later than Sunday.

16 Monday

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

22 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship

24 Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion & Candle Lighting Service



Please help provide our church with a festive look by sharing poinsettias for the season.



SHARE THE WARMTH

The Schaller-Crestland Ministerial Association Holiday Toy and Clothing Drive is in need of the following items for families: boys and teen size stocking hats, mittens, and gloves, pajama and pajama pants for boys and girls – sizes 6 and up, and new or gently used stuffed animals. Thanks!

Hi all, we have had a late request. The family has 6 children. Girls 4 and 6. Four teenagers from ages 16-18. The older ones need coats. Adult M and L for the boys and Adult S and M for the girls. If anyone has gently-used items they would like to donate. We are out of hats and gloves for males-those would also be appreciated.

The other item we would need would be pajamas or pajama pants in the following sizes: Girl 6/7, Boy Adult M. Boy Adult L, Girl Adult S, Girl Adult M.

Thanks so much for your help!



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

December 1st thru December 24th



The Christmas Joy Offering envelopes and children's coin boxes can be found at the back of the Sanctuary through the season of Advent.

