

Ministry Staff — How can we serve You?

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PLEASANT ST. KIDS — We would love to help your children become devoted followers of Christ! Check in and get a name tag at the kids cart in the fellowship hall before service.

- **NURSERY** (babies-age 3) during the service for Bible stories, music, play, and more!
- **KIDSTREET** (age 4-2nd grade) dismissed before sermon for a Bible story, craft/activity, music, and more!
- **ECHO** (3rd-5th grade) dismissed after the sermon to reflect and get to know each other, lasting 10 minutes. We don't meet on the last Sunday of each month.
- All ages are welcome to stay in the service. There is space under the balcony and in the fellowship hall if you need to get the wiggles out.

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — For our high school youth group with their leaders, for cooking and serving breakfast this morning. Pray for Mike Bienema who spent a few days in the hospital with covid and is now recovering at home. Please also pray for Thalia Towle who had her gallbladder removed last Wednesday. Our deepest condolences to Denise Audette in the passing of her sister, Miriam last week. She is no longer suffering and in the loving hands of God. The family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers of comfort to Miriam and her families —*The Lord be with you all!*

MANY THANKS — The deacons would like to thank all the members that participated in filling out the **helping hands** card. We are excited to use your gifts and services.

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

PAGEANT FAMILY SERVICE & GATHERING — Sunday, December 24, at 9:30am. Join us for our Christmas pageant. After the pageant we will celebrate with homemade cookies and treats —hope you can join us and celebrate the season with friends and festive fun!

CHRISTMAS EVE — Sunday, December 24, at 4pm. Invite your family and friends to join us for a candle-light service. A special offering will be received for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund.

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

THE DEACONS — will have Christmas Gift Tags in the fellowship hall. Our congregation needs to buy both clothing gifts and toy gifts for 60 children (120 total gifts), in addition to 26 food cards. Gifts will be distributed on Sunday, December 17. We encourage each of you to participate, as many hands make light work. Thank you in advance for your generosity by being a blessing to those in our community!

OUR SECOND OFFERING — Next Sunday, is for "Healing Heart Hospitality House"; a charity that provides physical, emotional and spiritual support and comfort to the families and friends of hospitalized patients in the greater Worcester area.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EVENT — The Christmas season is a wonderful time to share your gifts with family, friends, neighbors, and guests. Help us make our **Christmas Eve Day Service** merry and bright with your gifts of baking. Please bring in some of your favorite Christmas cookies or treats and share some family traditions after the worship service. We hope you take this opportunity to showcase your culinary skills with others who appreciate the art of baking and celebrate the season, one cookie at a time!

FINANCIAL GIVING ENVELOPES — are available in the mailboxes; if you did not receive envelopes and would like them, contact Sadie in the office. Please note your envelope number has more than likely changed. Forms to give electronically are available in the fellowship hall and office.

REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

A BIG THANK YOU — to those who volunteered to serve meals on Wednesday (*Thanksgiving Eve*) for the Peace of Bread! Although attendance was low (approximately 40 people), there were many takeout orders and satisfied appetites. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve!

WELCOME

We're glad you joined us!

508.234.5268 +

Office Hours: 8am–4pm Mon-Fri

December 3, 2023 + 9:30am

"Advent Series: "Waiting for God"



Advent is the first season in the liturgical calendar, a lonely one, in which we wait in the darkness in expectant longing for the coming of Christ. But it is also a time of profound hope, for we have a joyous assurance that a baby will be born in Bethlehem with the power to "ransom captive Israel." Every week a new candle is lit in an advent wreath to symbolize the growing abundance of hope, joy, love, and peace, so that we have the confidence to sing the beautiful words, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!"

Prayer of preparation

*Holy God of Hope, give us ears to hear and hearts to trust the promises you offer to us in this season of Advent. As we worship together, we offer ourselves to you and we open ourselves to your abundant grace.
Amen.*

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship — from Psalm 130

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We set out on our Advent journey with a reminder.

Christ has come and Christ will come again!

We wait expectantly, we wait with joy.

Christ has come and Christ will come again!

Even now I wait for the Lord and in his Word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

Even now there is no darkness with you, O Lord.

For Christ has come, Christ will come, and even now Christ is here.

Let us proclaim the wonder of the God who came, is coming, and will always come!

Silence

SONG: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Candle Reading - HOPE

SONG: *O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs 1 & 2)*

RENEWAL

Call to Confession — from Psalm 51, Isaiah 61

Lord, God your salvation is nearer today than before. Yet we confess that we have not kept watch for your coming with the eyes of faith.

We have not kept watch.

We have been preoccupied with our own concerns; our eyes blurred by our tears and distracted by bright desires.

We have overlooked needs in the people around us and have been dull to the gifts you've given us.

Forgive us our lack of watchfulness, help us to wait in faith for your coming.

SONG: *O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs 3)*

Lord God, you came into the world to bring light into darkness. You will come to put an end to darkness. Come now by your Holy Spirit and illumine our minds and hearts – Let the people living in darkness see again your gospel light!

Shine your life and love into our lives and teach us about your will. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

All the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ who has come, will come again, and comes even now by his Spirit. He comes with good news – through his death and resurrection he has opened to us a path to New Life.

Faithful God, we wait for you to come. We know that you will because you already have and because you promised to return.

While we wait, send your Spirit so that we may grow in grace.

Prepare us for your coming, Lord. Amen.

SONG: *O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs 4)*

COMMIT

Morning Offerings: Ministries of Pleasant Street



SONG: *Christ Be Our Light*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

KidStreet Dismissal

[Children age 4 through 2nd grade are dismissed]

WORD

Morning Prayers

Romans 13: 8- 14 + "Waiting for God – Love at the end of the World."

SEND

ECHO Dismissal

[Students in grades 3-5 are dismissed]

SONG: *Only A Holy God*

Apostle's Creed

Benediction

SONG: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Jesus Christ!