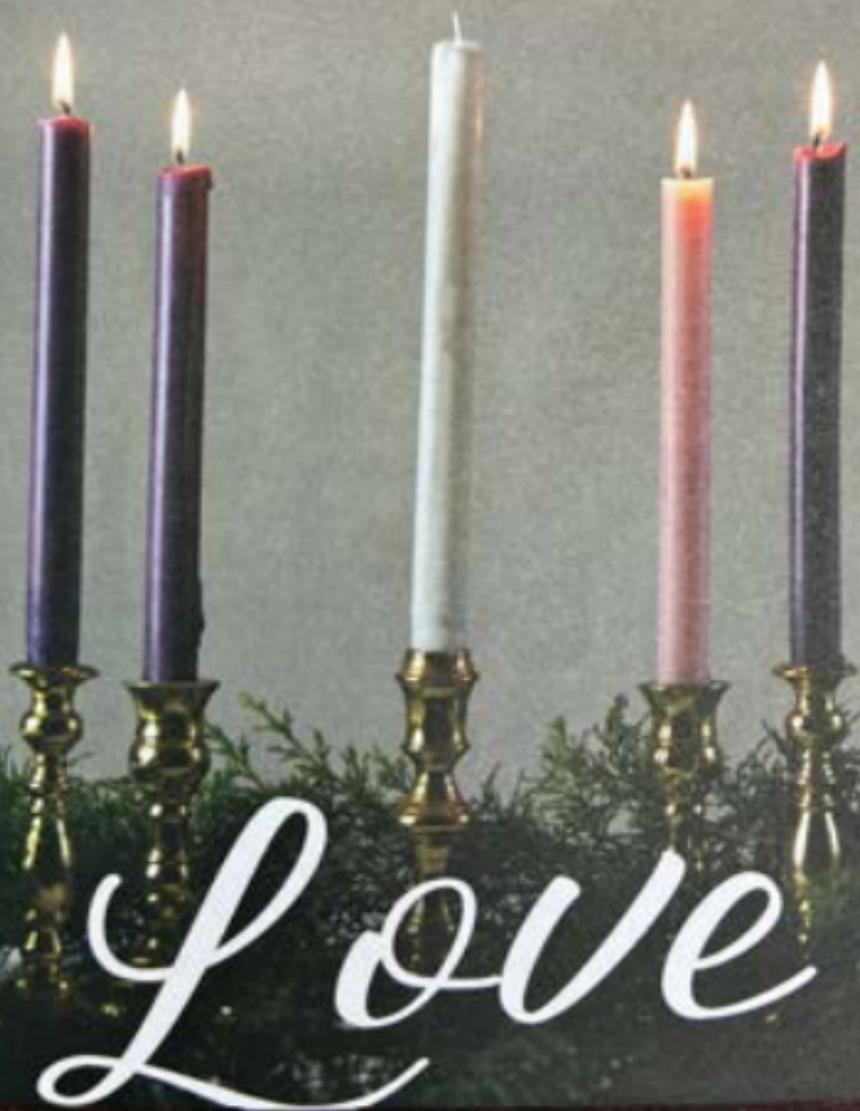




In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9



Elizabeth, Guest Speaker
Craig, Liturgist
Kari, Music Tech

December 21st, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

The Church Gathers to Worship

**Those who wish may stand.*

MEDITATIVE READING

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
(pg 540 [665 LP] OT)

PRELUDE

TIME OF PREPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look around, and what do you see? Candles and garland, angels and doves, wreaths and lights and sparkling bows.

People: All this beauty lifts high the prayers of Advent, drawing our thoughts upward; prayers of Hope and Peace and Joy!

Leader: All the trappings of Christmas surround us, tied like a bow around us, this gift of gathered family and friends.

People: This gift of worship and of praise and prayer, as here in this time, our hearts are united as we offer ourselves to God in love.

*HYMN #27

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*CORPORATE CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Send your Spirit, Dear Lord, into the midst of all that distracts us. Quiet our thoughts; open our hearts, as you

hold us in a moment of silence – this time to reflect upon the *gift* our lives are as we offer them in love and committed service to you. We come now in prayer to you...

*PERSONAL CONFESSION (*in silence*)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GLORIA PATRI (pg. 579 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - *The Candle of Love*

Emmy with Kristin, Wallace, Carly, Evelyn &

Isabelle

Hearing the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

(pg. 636 [779 LP] OT)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 1:1-7

(pg. 152 [184 LP] NT)

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 1 [1 LP] NT)

SERMON

“Where Are You Christmas?”

Elizabeth

To Respond in Faith

*HYMN #44

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Continue on Back)

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Unis or)* (pg. 16 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (pg. 592 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

To Serve in Love and Hope

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #23

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

FOR PASTORAL CARE PLEASE CONTACT

Rev. Bruce at 716-378-6773 or

Judy 716-933-6303



***Please Join Us For Our
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Wednesday, December 24th, 2025
At 7:00 PM***

For the week beginning December 21,

GREETERS: Mark and Kathy
PRAYER FAMILY: Jacquie and Ed
ELDER for the Month: Julie

Tues Office Hours 12/23 8:00am – 10:00am
Wed Office Hours 12/24 8:00am – 10:00am
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 7:00pm
Thurs **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
Next
Sunday 12/28 10:00 a.m. Worship-Carol Sing Service
Leader of Service: Diana
Greeters: Judy
Music Tech: ????????????????

HEARING ENHANCERS are available in the Narthex. Please ask the greeters for assistance.

We will be collecting **RICE** the entire month of December for the **PORTVILLE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY.**

INFO FOR THE JAN/FEB 2025 NEWSLETTER is due to Julie **TODAY.**



If you have any empty gallon milk jugs between now and Wednesday morning please drop off at the back door of the church for the lighting of the luminaries on Christmas Eve.

It's not too late to bring your pledge card to church and place it in the offering plate.

SANCTUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE 2026:

A new schedule will be going up sometime in January posted in the Quilt Room. Many names are already on it for cleaning. Your name will remain on the list unless you tell me you want it removed. If you would like to be ADDED to the list, please let me know. Many times two people work together. The sweeper and supplies are kept in the room at the end of the hall on the second floor past the bathrooms. Cleaning includes running the sweeper in the Quilt Room, Narthex, and Sanctuary. Light dusting, emptying waste cans, and general picking up of anything are AS NEEDED. Dates are usually five times or so during the entire year. Thank you to Mary Ann C. who volunteered to be a substitute and can fill in June through October. Some people like to clean for a month at a time. At this time, January, February, and March are taken. You may trade dates if something comes up. Keeping the church continually looking nice is everyone's concern. Your help is greatly appreciated! If questions, see Connie/Norm (we are helping the Property Committee) or email is: kingerrt@verizon.net

