

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me
with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me
with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself
with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself
with her jewels.

Isaiah 61:10

**Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church Service
December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Words of Welcome & Life of the Church

Prelude: Kayla Delandro-Latimer, violin

Call to Worship:

One: From the flurry of holiday busyness,

All: We come longing for peace,

One: Yearning for lasting joy,

All: Hoping to find our rest in God.

One: From full calendars and hectic schedules,

All: We come to taste the Bread of Life,

One: Drink the cup of blessing,

All: Sing the songs of Advent hope.

One: From the worry of our days,

All: We come to be set free,

One: Be made new,

All: Follow the Prince of Peace, the joy of every longing heart.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Third Candle - The Candle of Joy

Kathy Hochlowski & Priscilla Wendover

Mary the Mother of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Hope. We light it and the Candle of Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting hope and peace.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope and Peace)

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him.

From hope, and peace, joy grows.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(A person lights the Third Candle the Pink Candle of Joy)

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

***Song of Praise** (please stand): *“Star Child”*

1 Star-Child, earth-Child,
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,

Refrain:

This year, this year
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

2 Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know, [Refrain]

3 Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears, [Refrain]

4 Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child,
knowing joy in store, [Refrain]

5 Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine, [Refrain]

Song of Praise (please stand): *“Midnight Clear (Love Song)”*

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Verse 2

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
Through all the weary world

And man at war with man hears not
The love song which they bring
O hush the noise and cease the strife
And hear the angels sing

Chorus

(Oh) Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God evermore
Good news great joy for all
Melody breaks through the silence
Christ the Savior is born
Jesus the love song of God
(Jesus the love song of God)

Sermon for the Young & Young at Heart

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

***Hymn of Preparation** (please stand): *“Blessed Be the God of Israel”* UMH 209

1 Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

2 Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

3 On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Sermon

Worship God with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem: *"Noel Carol"* Laura Gabor, Flute

***Doxology** (*please stand*) UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluiah, Alleluiah
Praise God the source of all our gifts;
Praise Jesus Christ whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluiah, Alleluiah, Alleluiah

Passing the Peace of Christ

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** (*please stand*): *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates"* UMH 213

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

4 Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Benediction

Postlude:

**Please stand if you are able*

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The rose on the altar is given by Friendship Circle to celebrate the birth of Bryce Altier, who was born on December 5 to Peter and BethAnne Altier, big brother Skylar, & great-grandparents Gerry and Geri Hoernes

## **LEADING WORSHIP – Our Pastor, Kregg Gabor**

### **HELPING IN WORSHIP**

Acolyte

Liturgist

Head Usher

Ushers

Ray Polivka

Linda McCluskey

Debbie Kudzia, Joseph Norman, Priscilla Wendover

**Welcome to Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church.** We are delighted to have you worship with us today!

**We want to be your family of faith.** We hope that you feel at home in our church family, and we encourage those interested in membership to speak with one of the ushers or contact us at 845-452-2933 or by email at [office@pokumc.org](mailto:office@pokumc.org).

### **REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Our members:** Steve Allen, Barbara Bates, Gladys Bierce, Cathy Close, Janet Cole, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Veronica Gordan, Emily Griess, Betsy Grover, Tom Halloran, Doris Hammell, Jodi Hammell, Sandra Hansen, Gwen Higgins, Janet Houston, Pat Hughes, Fred Jackson, Dick James, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Betty Longobardi, Julia Miller, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Karla Quinlan, Arnette Schmidt, Diana Silverman, Michelle Simonis, Jeff Tryon, Kerianne Wendover, Catherine White, Sarah-Grace White, Marilyn Zier.

**Friends of our church in your prayers:** Georgia Kustas-Beurket, Cris and John Burke, Jordan Fidler, Bryan Foy, Debra Greiner, Edgar Martinez, Adonis Marzan, Hilary McAllister, Joe Pollen, Jean Slater, Wayne Surico, Robert Thompson-Gee, Ronald Tomaso, Jackie Triguero, Clifford Zier. Also all those impacted by the Coronavirus. The people in Ukraine.

**Members of the military, active and/or retired, in your prayers:** Michael Clear, Staff Sergeant in the Army, stationed in Syria; Joshua Lord, 1-69 Infantry Medical Platoon Sergeant, NYC; Randal Middleton, Naples, Italy Naval Base, Major Jason Oliver, Texas.

**2024 Pledge Update:** As of December 10th, we have received \$229,660 in pledges for the coming budget year. Thank you!!

**With Christmas just around the corner, what better gift to give than a PUMC polo shirt, t-shirt or baseball hat!** Sale starts this week! Contact Dale Borchert if interested. 845-337-1281. Polo shirts are \$30 each, t-shirts are \$18 each and hats are \$25.

**Giving Envelopes:** If you would like personalized giving envelopes please add your name to the list in the Narthex or contact the church office (845-452-2933 or [office@pokumc.org](mailto:office@pokumc.org))

**The next Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, January 9.** Reservations are required so please let us know if you plan to attend.

**Beginning 2024, there are openings on the Board of Directors of the Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center.** This is a wonderful community outreach mission that REALLY makes a difference. It is a "advisory board" (as opposed to a "participatory board"). The only commitment is attendance at the Board meetings, which are generally the 3rd Thursday, every-other month (for only 6-8 meetings a year). Please contact Barb Adams if you'd like to serve on the HTASC Board of Directors, or would like to know more about it: 845-505-1302, [bcadams317@gmail.com](mailto:bcadams317@gmail.com).

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!** If you plan to make a pledge, please fill out a pledge card to support our 2024 ministries and place it in the offering plate.

**New Newsletter Editor:** Starting in January, Karyn (in the office) will be editing the Journey each month. The next deadline (for the February Journey) is January 17. Please send any submissions to [office@pokumc.org](mailto:office@pokumc.org).

**ANGEL TREE:** A big thank you to all who provided for a child's Christmas. We filled 131 wishes. You are all Angels.

**Pledged giving through November 30, 2023** was \$244,618 or 104% of our budget goal (\$235,000). Our combined Pledge and Non-Pledge giving was \$283,892 or 91.5% of our budget goal (310,000). Thank you for your strong and faithful giving!

**Sunday, December 24**

*Service @ 10am – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*Services @ 6pm & 10pm – Christmas Eve Services*

# Opportunities for You This Week

## SUNDAY, December 17, 2023

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Contemplative Prayer  
8:45 Coffee with Jesus  
10:00 Worship Service  
Sunday School  
11:15 Fellowship  
Halo Bells  
2:00 pm Church Conference  
Parkside AA  
6:00 Youth Group

## MONDAY, December 18, 2023

9:00 am Monday Study Group  
10:00 Exercise  
6:30 pm Gamblers Anonymous

## TUESDAY, December 19, 2023

11:00 am Advent Book Study  
1:00 Arts & Crafts Group  
5:30 PP Alcoholics Anonymous  
6:30 Current Events & WWJD

## WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2023

7:30 am Morning Prayers  
12:00 pm Midday Meditative

## THURSDAY, December 21, 2023

5:00 pm PP Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 Choir

## FRIDAY, December 22, 2023

10:00 am Exercise  
7:00 pm Comfort & Joy Service

## SATURDAY, December 23, 2023

8:30 am Gambler's Anonymous

## SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

### 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Contemplative Prayer  
8:45 Coffee with Jesus  
10:00 Worship Service  
Sunday School  
11:15 Fellowship  
2:00 pm Parkside AA  
6:00 Christmas Eve Family Service  
10:00 Christmas Eve Service

### **Star Child**

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray  
MUSIC: Carlton R. Young

### **Midnight Clear (Love Song)**

CCLI Song # 7050418  
Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jonas Myrin  
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### **Blessed Be the God of Israel (UMH 209)**

WORDS: Michael Perry  
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson

### **Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (UMH 213)**

WORDS: Georg Weissel  
MUSIC: *Psalmody Evangelica*