

MAGNIFICAT

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD,
AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES
IN GOD MY SAVIOR,
FOR HE HAS LOOKED WITH FAVOR
ON THE LOWLINESS
OF HIS SERVANT.
SURELY, FROM NOW ON
ALL GENERATIONS
WILL CALL ME BLESSED...

Luke 1:46b-48

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**Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church Service
December 24, 2023
4th Sunday of Advent**

Words of Welcome & Life of the Church

Prelude: *O Thou Joyful Day* Polly James, Organ Stephen Siktberg, Piano

Call to Worship:

One: Something stirs deep within us -

All: A longing, a hope,

One: A thirst for joy,

All: A hunger for peace,

One: A yearning for blessing.

All: We know deep within

One: That our hopes and fears

All: Will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

One: It is Advent -

All: Season of waiting, hoping, yearning.

One: Advent -

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Opening Prayer

***Song of Praise** (please stand): *"All Hail King Jesus"*

All hail King Jesus

All hail Emmanuel

King of kings

Lord of lords

Bright Morning Star

And throughout eternity

I'll sing your praises

And I'll reign with you

Throughout eternity

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

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King. [Refrain]

4 See Him in a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
sing with us our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love.

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We light it, the Candle of Hope and the Candle of Peace again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope, our peace, and our Joy.

(A person lights the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.)

Today we light the Forth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(A person lights the Fourth Candle, the Candle of Love here)

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:29-35

Sermon for the Young & Young at Heart

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

1. There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

2. There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

3. In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!

4. We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

Sermon

Worship God with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem: *"O Come to the Manger"* 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*): *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* UMH 213

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Benediction

Postlude:

**Please stand if you are able*

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

### **HELPING IN WORSHIP**

Acolyte

Liturgist Jenn Harmer

Head Usher Will Cass

Ushers 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).

***Hilary Stamper, a long time member of the church, passed away on Thursday, December 14.  
Please keep her family in your prayers.***

### **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, 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.

# Announcements

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

**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!

**Altar Flower Sign Up Sheet:** There is a 2024 Altar Flower Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex, or you can contact the church office to order altar flowers.

**Pasta Dinner** – The hospitality committee will be serving a traditional pasta dinner at PUMC on Thursday, **January 11 @ 5:30 – 7:00pm.**

## Opportunities for You This Week

### SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Contemplative Prayer  
10:00 Worship Service  
Sunday School  
11:15 Fellowship  
Halo Bells  
2:00 pm Parkside AA  
6:00 Christmas Eve Family Service  
10:00 Christmas Eve Service

### MONDAY, December 25, 2023

#### Christmas Day

6:30 pm Gamblers Anonymous

### TUESDAY, December 26, 2023

1:00 Arts & Crafts Group  
5:30 PP Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY, December 27, 2023

7:30 am Morning Prayers

### THURSDAY, December 28, 2023

5:00 pm PP Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 Choir

### FRIDAY, December 29, 2023

10:00 am Exercise

### SATURDAY, December 30, 2023

8:30 am Gambler's Anonymous

### SUNDAY, December 31, 2023

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

#### **All Hail King Jesus**

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Dave Moody

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James Chadwick | John E. Coates

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#### **There's A Song in the Air**

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#### **Angels We Have Heard on Hgh**

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