



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 2022

Welcome to Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Members and friends gather here each Sunday morning (and lots of times during the week!) to celebrate and serve. We rejoice that you are here with us, and hope that you'll feel right at home.

Face Masks for personal protection are optional for all activities on our campus

Visitors are encouraged to reach out about activities they may be interested in attending.

Visual Worship Schedules are available upon request.

If you need a little help hearing, portable listening devices are available.

If a fidget toy would be helpful for you, they are available at the Narthex entrance.

An All Gender Restroom is located in the Narthex.

An infant changing station and Quiet Room for parents with little ones is located off the Narthex.

A Parents' room is available downstairs for those with small children,

Activity packets are available for children to use during worship.

Please ask an usher if you need help; we are here to assist you!

Sunday, December 11	Wednesday (continued)
Third Sunday of Advent	10:00 am- Fellowship of Friends
9:30 am- Chancel Choir	3:00 pm- Private Music Lessons
10:00 am- Worship	4:00 pm- Private Flute lessons
Pastor Taylor Preaching	7:00 pm- Cubs 228
10:00 am- Faith Formation	7:00 pm- WOW
11:00 am- Fellowship Time	Thursday, December 15
11:00 am- Pageant Practice	6:30 pm- Bell Choir
3:00 pm- Concerts for a Cause- Elisa Muzzillo	7:30 pm- BSA 277/2019
Monday, December 12	7:30 pm- Choir Practice
10:00 am- Adult Bible Class	Friday, December 16
10:00 am- Staff Meeting	Saturday, December 17
7:30 pm- WPC Connections	5:00 pm- Private Event
Tuesday, December 13	Sunday, December 18
12:00 pm- PrimeTime	Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons	9:30 am- Chancel Choir
7:00 pm- Ballroom Dancing	10:00 am- Worship/ Children's Pageant
7:00 pm- Sanctuary Committee	The Children of our Congregation Preaching
7:30 pm- Worship Council	11:00 am- Fellowship Time
Wednesday, December 14	11:00 am- Wallingford Winds Rehearsal
9:00 am-Breakfast Group-Court Diner	4:30 pm- Confirmation Class

A community where all who seek God are Welcome...



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

WORDS OF MEDITATION

"In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

-- Frederick Buechner

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

My soul magnifies the Lord;

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things.

Holy is God's name!

READING FROM THE PROPHET

Isaiah 35:1-10

OT 663

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES-- THE ZESZUT FAMILY

(The primary symbolism of the Advent Candles has to do with light growing in darkness – leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. The pink candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally thought to be a respite of joy in an otherwise penitential season.)

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

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN 646

Sing Out My Soul

MAGNIFICAT

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. (Time of silent confession)

Forgive us, O Lord.

Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE 654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All children are invited to come forward at this time. Parents are encouraged to accompany their younger children and sit with them on the chancel steps or in the front pews. Children are invited to Faith Formation classes (ages 18 months – 5 years and 6-11 years) or to stay with us in worship. There are activity packets at each entrance for children to enjoy during worship time.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Don McAfee

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

NT 11

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46b-55

NT 57

SERMON

Advent Meditation

Pastor Taylor

ANTHEM

Every Valley

by John Ness

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low, and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

MOMENT FOR MISSION- CHRIST MARKET

BONUS MOMENT FOR MISSION- STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

If you wish to give electronically from your smartphone or tablet, please scan the box at the right to go to the website where you can give to WPC via credit card, or give via the Church Center app.



OFFERTORY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

arr. M. Sedio

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth, giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and help us,
according to the promise of your steadfast love.

Let all generations see your blessing,
for your name is holy and your mercy is great.

Show the strength of your hand,
and lift the burdens of the poor.

Work wonders for the humble,
and scatter the plans of the proud.

Look with favor upon the lowly,
and cast down tyrants from their thrones.

Fill the hungry with good things,
and empty the hands of the greedy.

Then we will sing out with joy and glorify you forever;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*CHARGE, BLESSING AND TIME OF GREETING AND "PEACE"

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

***Those who are able, please stand.**

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+WPC uses only gluten free products for communion

Thank you to David Rudd, the Zeszut Family, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.

This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP Just a reminder: If you aren't feeling your best (headache, fever, body ache), please consider staying at home until you feel like your old self again.

MASK OPTIONAL Mask wearing is optional for worship and all activities and groups using WPC's buildings or grounds. If you would like to wear one, we have KN-95 masks available for your use when you come to worship.

IN-PERSON STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS

Pastor François	Tuesday	11 am - 4:30 pm
	Wednesday	10 am - 2 pm
Pastor Taylor	Monday	11 am - 4:30 pm
	Thursday	10 am - 1 pm
Main Office	Mon-Thursday	2:00 - 4:30 pm

Feel free to call the church office (610-566-1644) or email staff members at other times.

CHAIRS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Friends, WPCers and countrymen – lend me your “rears” !

As some of you know, the Sanctuary, Worship and Disabilities Committees have discussed replacing the pews in our church with chairs, as has been done in several area churches as well as churches in Europe. The thought is that the use of chairs will give us greater flexibility in the use of our church space as well as giving us accessibility for all disabilities. Our initial plan is to replace 4 or 5 rows of pews with chairs – we would alternate chairs with arms and chairs without arms for additional flexibility. The chairs with arms would enable those who have difficulty getting up to have added support for standing.

So, with no “ifs” “ands” just “butts” we would like you to “try on” the two new chairs we have on display in Fellowship Hall. Members of the committees will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for keeping your minds open to these proposed changes.

~Chris Dearnaley, Michelle George, Kristine Mulhorn, Jim Oetinger, Shirley Rudd, and Gwyn Vernon

CHRISTMARKET Our annual ChristMarket offers meaningful alternatives to traditional gifts that raise awareness of the needs of others and funds to support those needs. Shop in person after worship (Sundays, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 and 18), by mail or online using the Church Center app or this link (bit.ly/WPC-XMarket2022). Mission and Service will match all gifts to a total of \$5,000.

OFFERING ENVELOPES 2023 If you requested weekly offering envelopes for 2023, they are available for pick up in Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT The children will take us on a journey, then and now, to Bethlehem. The magical experience telling the story of Jesus' birth will be presented as part of the Dec. 18 worship service.

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE Enjoy a concert, 3 p.m., TODAY, featuring flutist Elisa Muzzillo, accompanied by Lee Hagon-Kerr. The suggested donation of \$15 will benefit Philabundance, a non-profit organization that works to drive hunger from our communities today and to end hunger for good.

FLUTE LESSONS WITH ELISA MUZZILLO AVAILABLE

Tuesday & Wednesday nights at WPC. Experienced teacher to students of all skill levels ages 8-18+. 30 or 60 minute lesson durations. contact Elisa at elisamuzzflute@gmail.com for lesson rates and availability!

NEW UNIVERSAL LARGE PRINT BULLETIN In continuing our push for accessibility, WPC is testing a universal large print bulletin during the Advent season. You can find large print hymns and scripture printed in the back.

VISUAL SCHEDULES showing the sequence of worship are available to supplement the bulletin. They outline the flow of the service with clip art prompts and serve as additional assistance in our continuing project for accessibility. Please ask one of the ushers for a copy.

'Tis the season... (Offerings
from yet another year of grace.)

J. Barrie Shepherd



Yes, it's a bit early – Santas before pumpkins almost! – but given the state of the USPS these days it's not too early to think about ordering copies of *'Tis the Season....* my 2022 Advent-Christmas poetry collection. This is the fifth year of these little chapbooks and they have proved quite popular raising some thousands of dollars for local food pantries and, I hope and pray, enriching the festive season for many readers. The book makes an attractive gift with its cover scene of our Piper Shores Xmas tree from the oceanside patio, (see above). Stuffed with 34 of my latest poems it might itself be a handy stocking stuffer. It costs only \$10 (plus \$5 postage), many readers will buy multiple copies for family and friends. All proceeds (beyond cost) are donated to food pantries in Scarborough and on Chebeague Island.

Order at barrieshep@aol.com, phone 207 510 1637 or 15 Piper Road – K325, Scarborough ME 04074. I'll even inscribe your copies with a personal greeting to whoever, or whomever you may desire. Deck the Halls... But not yet.

Barrie



Christmas Flowers

Poinsettias will again be used to decorate the church sanctuary for our Christmas services.
We are ordering 6 inch pots for 6-9 blooms.

#1 Order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone and then *take it home* after the Christmas Eve service.

#2 Order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone and then *leave it* as a gift to be taken by the Deacons to the homebound.

#3 Honor or memorialize someone by making a *donation* that will go into the Christmas offering.

Poinsettias are \$9 this year for the 6 inch pot with 6-9 blooms

The deadline for your order is TODAY

Please put your name, payment and option choice, along with the name of the person to be remembered on the form below and return to the church office.

You may also sign up and pay online at <https://bit.ly/WPCPoins2022>

Poinsettia Order Form 2022

Please return with payment (\$9 per plant) by December 11, 2022

Make check payable to: Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Memo: Christmas flowers

Name (given by) _____ Phone # _____

Option # 1 red poinsettia # _____ white poinsettia # _____

Option # 2 red poinsettia # _____ white poinsettia # _____

Option # 3 \$ _____

Total plants or memorials requested: _____ @ \$ 9.00 = \$ _____

Name (In memory / honor of) _____

Sing Out, My Soul

Magnificat

646

G * C D7 G (chords continue)
*

Sing out, my soul. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Sing out, my soul. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Sing out and Ma - gni - fi -

glo - ri - fy the Lord who sets us free. Sing out, my soul. cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num. Ma - gni - fi - cat.

Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God! Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

*May be sung as a canon.

This canonic chant from the Taizé Community is based on the opening phrase of Mary's song when she visited her relative Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39-56). Both Eastern and Western churches have used the full text for many centuries as part of daily prayers.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1978
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1978
Text and Music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

MAGNIFICAT (Taizé)
Irregular

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

The musical score is written for a choir in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near." The score includes triplets in the second and third systems. The final system ends with a double bar line.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1986

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1986

Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)


IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

Irregular


O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104




1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.]]

3 Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4 Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

11 “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Luke 1:46b-55

Mary's Song of Praise

46 And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

STAFF

Rev. François Lacroix, Pastor
Rev. Taylor Cornelius, Associate Pastor
Lee Hagon-Kerr, Director of Music
Kate Callahan, Church Administrator
Leslie Krowchenko, Communications Coordinator
Judith Kenworthy, Clerk of Session
Ed Mattote and Todd Darr, Co-Treasurers
Michelle Hall, Financial Secretary

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