

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Schaller, Iowa  
Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 A. M.  
December 11, 2022

Rev. Michael Sydnor

**PRELUDE**

Janice Ploeger, Organist

**LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF JOY**

Reader One: “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 . . . 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 . . . 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.” (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10 NRSV).

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God’s house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Reader One: The Psalmist says “Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 146 NRSV)

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God’s promise.

Light three candles on the Advent wreath. If using a rose or pink-colored candle in

the wreath, this is the time to light that one.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Elder

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder

Elder: My soul magnifies the Lord;

People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.<sup>1</sup>

Elder: Let us worship God.

**\*HYMN** “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

#151

**INVOCATION** (Please be seated)

Pastor

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):**

We don’t believe the good news of flowering deserts, ending droughts, and homecomings because the world doesn’t change. We are tired and discouraged, but you do not stop working. You find new messengers to proclaim your word and new people to do your work. Forgive us for our doubts and our unwillingness to follow your call. Remind us of both your love and power so that our trust might be renewed, and our energy restored. Then recruit others through us so that creation might be restored to its original splendor. (Time of silent prayer). Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

**\* GLORIA PATRI** #623

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10

Elder

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will

<sup>1</sup> Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 178). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### **Gospel: Matthew 11:1-10**

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out

## NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

Donnie Skou (lung cancer)

## CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Richard & Florene Cork  
(Florene is at Mercy Hospital in Sioux City)

Joyce Currie

Cindy Joens

Joann Reimers

Laura Turnquist

(Waiting to have Shoulder Surgery)

Dave Thayer

Ryan McDonough & Family

Mark Siebrecht & Family

Kirk Langner

Tom McDonough & Family

Malia Meyer

Richard Robinson

Jim Robinson

Doug O'Bannon

Shari O'Bannon

Dexter Meseck

Andy Beckord

Carissa King (Mission Work in Guatemala)

Hazel Snyder

Brenda Segebart

School

## PRAYERS FOR CHURCHES

### Sunday, December 11

Pray for Rev. Shawn Harmon, Commissioned to Overseas Mission Service

### Sunday, December 18

Theological Institutions in the PC(USA)

into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: " 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

**HYMN** "We're Marching to Zion" #555

**SERMON** "Creation Gets a Makeover"

## \*APOSTLE'S CREED

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #625

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\***HYMN** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #128

## \*BENEDICTION

\***BENEDICTION SONG** "Freely, Freely" (V. 1) #447

## \*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

## \*POSTLUDE

(\*Those who are able please stand.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2022

11 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School Classes  
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary  
(Masks are optional)

14 Wednesday

3:30-5:30 pm Purple Gang

15 Thursday

7:00 pm Online Devotional Community Prayers

18 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School Classes  
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary & Children's Play  
(Masks are optional)



### THE GIVING TREE

All gifts must be brought back to the church by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.



Lynn Currie is asking people to send birthday cards to her brother Bret Currie. He loves getting cards and has been a bit lonely since his move to WI to be closer to me.

His 64th birthday is on January 12th.

His address is 4327 Nakoma Rd, Apt 333 Madison, WI 53711



### SHARE THE WARMTH

Please have all your gifts of warmth at the church no later than Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 2022 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

November 27<sup>th</sup> thru December 18th

#### THE PERFECT GIFT



The Christmas Joy Offering envelopes and children's coin boxes can be found at the back of the Sanctuary through the Christmas

season.

PLEASE mark your checks Presbyterian Church and in the memo line mark Christmas Joy Offering. Please give generously. Mail your checks to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 69, Schaller, IA 51053, or you can drop the check off at the State Bank of Schaller anytime during December.

2022 PER CAPITA 2022 Per Capita amount is \$42.48. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".



Please help provide our church with a festive look by sharing poinsettias for the season.

**Congratulations** to Ashley Kestel who graduated University of South Dakota from Nursing school. She will be taking her boards in January.



## PURPLE GANG

Purple Gang meets on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for grades K-5th.

We are thrilled to give your children an opportunity to talk, eat, and play with their friends outside of a school setting. We will maintain our policy of cancelling a Purple Gang event if the school closes due to weather or illness.



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### SERVERS FOR PURPLE GANG

December 14<sup>th</sup>  
Jackie Mentzer

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### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Bruce & Jackie Mentzer

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Mark & Sam McDonough

December 24<sup>th</sup>  
John & Brenna Franken



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## **BIRTHDAY WISHES:**

Joann Reimers (Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>)  
Jim McDonough (Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>)  
David Siebrecht (Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>)  
Bruce Mentzer (Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>)

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## **CHRISTMAS UPCOMING EVENTS:**



### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY**

The Children's Christmas Play will be presented on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during our regular worship service. Join us and bring your family.

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

The Christmas Eve Candle Lighting and Communion Service will be on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 p.m.



Children can bring their Joy Offering Coin Boxes to be dedicated.

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Please join us for Christmas Day Worship on December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Bring your family.

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