

Schaller, Iowa  
December 24, 2023

6:30 P. M.  
Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

Judy Fells, Pianist

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Franken Family

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

**Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.

### JOY TO THE WORLD

THE PROPHET SPEAKS--Isaiah 40:3-8

The voice of him that cries in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, 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 has spoken. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all its glory is like the flower of the field: The grass withered, the flower faded: because the spirit of the Lord blows upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withered, the flower faded: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

READER: Joy! Word of awe and word of wonder,  
Word of blessings yet to come;  
Word of hope and joyous promise,  
Word of jubilee and song.  
Word exploding into color,  
Word that glows in quiet hearts;  
Word of grace that lights our pathway,  
Word of God, most precious gift.  
Joy! This is the word—the tiny word  
that lives to grow and sing;

that echoes round the weary earth,  
and wreathes the heart's blessing.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

The wreath is the symbol of Christmas joy. It is a circle with no beginning and no ending. It reminds us that God is from everlasting to everlasting. The evergreen in the wreath symbolizes life eternal in Christ. With these wreaths of joy we tell again how "God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son."

CAROL

Joy to the World! (verses 1 & 2)

Hymn #125

#### THE JOY OF PROMISE

READER: From the beginning God promised salvation to a world sin-darkened, to a people expectant and hopeful.  
Salvation comes! A light, a sun, a glory rises in infant form--  
Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, God's Son.

Hosanna! Hallelujah! "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people."

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2,6

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Psalm 47:1

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

Isaiah 11 :1,2

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1 & 2)

Hymn #145

#### THE JOY OF MARY

READER: Mary, humble maid of Judah,  
Chosen now to bear God's Son,  
In a vision hears the angel  
Speak about the holy One.



To Bethlehem town to find the child--  
To kneel for God's own Son.

Rejoicing shepherds still return  
While giving God the praise;  
To God all glory--earth and heaven,  
For he has blessed these days.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-20

CAROL: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks HYMN #135  
THE JOY OF THE WISE MEN

READER: Sages and seers gaze at the heavens  
(Bright is the star that appears),  
Beckoning, guiding them onward  
(Bright is the star that appears),  
Wise are the people who follow his star  
(Bright is the light that leads on).  
Eagerly questing a new-born King  
(Bright is the light that leads on).  
Joy upon joy! the starlight finds rest  
(Bright is the place where he's found),  
Over the house where the baby's asleep  
(Bright is the place where he's found).  
Knees bend to worship God's great gift  
(Bright is the hope that he brings),  
Hearts opened to him offer gifts that are rare  
(Bright is the hope that he brings).

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-6, 9-11

CAROL The First Noel Hymn #136  
THE JOY OF GIVING

READER: What can I give him?  
What can I bring?  
What can I do?  
What can I sing?  
  
A prayer of praise,  
a psalm of thanksgiving,  
a song of joy,  
an offering of love;  
this I can give him  
who gave us his love.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

#625

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE JOY OF LIVING

READER: Praise the Lord, the God of the universe,  
for the joys we find  
with family, friends, and neighbors,  
in daily work and recreation,  
and in the hope of eternal life.  
Praise the Lord, the God of salvation,  
for the gift of the infant Jesus  
and for the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord  
who loved us and saved us.  
Praise the Lord, the God everpresent,  
for daily guidance and hope,  
the Spirit's blessing.

CAROL	Joy to the World (verses 3 & 4)	Hymn #125
HYMN	"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"	# 325
THE LORD'S SUPPER	(SEE INSERT)	
*HYMN	"Silent Night! Holy Night!"	# 147

Elders will walk down the aisles with lit candles as we begin singing this hymn, the congregation will be invited to light candles. After the candle lighting is completed, the house lights will be cut and we will sing the final verses by candlelight only.

When lighting your candle, please tip the unlit candle over the lit candle to avoid any accidents!

After the hymn is concluded, PLEASE EXIT THE SANCTUARY IN SILENCE, carrying your lit candle with you - taking the light of Christ with you out into the world! Candles may then be extinguished and dropped off in a box located in the narthex area and share greetings and fellowship with those around you.

This service is an adaptation of JOY TO THE WORLD--a Christmas Service for Church Schools by Katherine Weller.

## **NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:**

The Grace Beckord Family  
(Jane Bisenius' sister)  
The Ann Drzycimski Family  
(Jane Bisenius' Aunt)

## **CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:**

Our Pastor  
Our Church  
Our School  
Purple Gang  
Doug O'Bannon & Family  
Shari O'Bannon  
Joyce Deloach

Michael's sister needs prayers for the Raven Dumones family who died of breast cancer at 31 and left behind a husband and 4 children.

Betty & Harlan Roeder  
Willie Lang  
Randy Leask  
Darold Jacobson (Health Care Center)  
Joan Martin (Health Issues & Health Care Center)  
Shelly Fenner (Phil & Sue Diersen's daughter)  
Denny Miller  
Steve Schaefer  
Carol Swanson Poston  
Karla Hustedt and her family  
Ken Fells Jr.  
Dennis Pfrimmer & Family  
George & Darlene Franzkowiak  
Carol Wendel  
Mark Diersen  
Dexter Meseck  
Malia Meyer

## **PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES**

**December 24, 2023** Pray for the Commissioned Ruling Elders in the Presbytery

**December 31, 2023** Pray for those Elders and Pastors who have gone before us in 2023

## **REMEMBER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

Bonnie Currie  
(Wakefield Health Care Center, 306 Ash Street, Wakefield, NE 68784)  
Brett Currie  
Shane Reimers  
Wanda Jeppeson (Methodist Manor)  
Darold Jacobson (Health Care Center)

## **BIRTHDAY WISHES:**

Bruce Mentzer (Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>)



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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### December 2023



24 Sunday (Christmas Eve)

There will be no Sunday School Classes, Confirmation Class or Sunday morning Worship.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Please join us for Christmas Eve Christmas Carols, Scriptures, Communion and Candle Lighting Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. (Masks are optional)

31 Sunday (New Years Eve) Rev. Fells will be filling the Pulpit

? 9:00 am Sunday School Classes

10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary (Masks are optional)

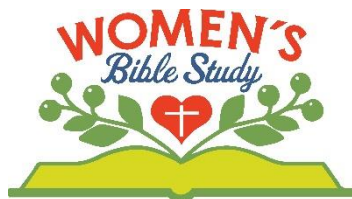
**Rev. Michael Sydnor will be on vacation from December 25<sup>th</sup> thru January 8<sup>th</sup>!**

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> which will serve as the annual meeting. There is a snow date of January 21<sup>st</sup>. We will approve terms of call, elect officers, and discuss reports from last year. The budget will be discussed as an information item.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports are due to Denise by January 7<sup>th</sup> so she can have them ready



## NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies Bible Study "Developing Inner Strength". We will be meeting for lesson #1 on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All are invited!



## November 26<sup>th</sup> thru December 25<sup>th</sup>

### THE PERFECT GIFT



Christmas Joy Offering envelopes and children's coin boxes can be found at the back of the Sanctuary throughout the season of Advent.

PLEASE mark your checks Presbyterian 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 any time during December.

### 2023 PER CAPITA

2023 Per Capita amount is \$48.35. 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".

### DECEMBER ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Julie Langner (Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>)

Janice Ploeger (Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>)

### FOOD PANTRY:

REMINDER: WHEN BRINGING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY, PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATES.



# *The Lord's Supper*

## The Invitation

**Minister:** Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

**People:** **People will come from east and west and from north and south, and sit at the table in the Kingdom of God.**

## The Thanksgiving

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Minister:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Minister:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## The Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

## Unison Prayer

O God, who called us from death to life; we give ourselves to you; and with the church through all ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

## Thanksgiving after the supper

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the spirit with your Son Jesus, who makes us new and strong. Who brings us life eternal. We thank you for giving us all good gifts in him, and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.