

December 15, 2019 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Gathering in God's Presence

*All are welcome to this time of worship, and in this faith community.
If you are visiting today, please visit the Welcome table at the entrance*

Announcements and Welcome

Greeting One Another

Prelude (10:30) *Silent Night*
Cherub Choir

Bringing in the Advent Light

Introit *Christ Be Our Light* Farrell
Abbie Miller, Medina Ozbay
(Congregation sing refrain)

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Isaiah 35:1–10; Luke 1:39–56

Special Music (10:30) *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* arr. Peterson
6th–12th-graders, Maddy Hicks, Milke Zygo

Young Disciples' Time (10:30) Please join in singing vs. 1 of *Jesus Loves Me*

Baptism (10:30) Drew Kise, son of Meghan and Brian Kise (see insert)

Anthem *The Wexford Carol* trad. Irish carol, arr. Van Keuren
Medina Ozbay

***Proclaiming Hymn** *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* vs. 1, 3–5 UMH# 198

Message *Sacred "Space"* **The Rev. Doug Mackey**

Responding to God's Word

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory (9:00) *Come, Gentle Peace* Martin/Martin/Larson
Chancel Choir

(10:30) *Away in a Manger* arr. Pentatonix, trans. by Wu
Medina Ozbay, Maddy Hicks, Maddie Morrison,
Liz Bryson, Sydney Gillan, Kenadie Fish

***Singing Our Praises** *Doxology* UM Hymnal #94

***Prayer of Dedication**

Our Church Family in Prayer

Prayer Song *Sanctuary* TFWS #2164

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.**

Christ, Be Our Light!
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Congregation: *Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.*

Words and Music by BERNADETTE FARRELL

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The copyright owner graciously grants permission to copy the above Congregational Part for use by your congregation to join in with the choir while they sing this anthem. No other use of this part is authorized for any other purpose.

A Spoken Response:

Christ, be our light: lead us into your sacred spaces.

Open our eyes to your light; open our hearts to your leading.

Lead us by your light and your love,

Guide our feet into your pathways of peace.

***Opening Hymn** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* vs. 1–3 UM Hymnal # 203

*You are invited to stand if you are able or comfortable

***Hymn of Going Forth** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*, vs. 1–3 UMH #213

Benediction

Postlude

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15

9 AM Confirmation Class
9 AM Worship followed by Coffee Hour
10:30 AM Worship/Sunday School/Coffee Hour
11:30 AM Youth Choir/Voices of Hope Rehearsal
12 PM Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, December 16

9 AM Early Birds
6 PM Girl Scouts
6 PM Brownies
7 PM Girl Scouts

Tuesday, December 17

8 AM Soup Kitchen
9 AM Preschool Family Party
1 PM BHBL Women's Book Club
6 PM Caroling at Glendale
7 PM Boy Scouts

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 AM Fixits
9 AM Preschool Family Party
9:30 AM Explorers
10 AM Prep Community Lunch
6 PM AA Meeting
7 PM Pub Explorations in Theology

Thursday, December 19

9 AM Seekers Book Study
12 PM Community Lunch
7 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, December 20

5 PM Stampin' Up

Sunday, December 22

9 AM Confirmation Class
9 AM Worship followed by Coffee Hour
10:30 AM Worship/Sunday School/Coffee Hour
11:30 AM Youth Choir/Voices of Hope Rehearsal
12 PM Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Announcements

TODAY Coffee Hour is hosted by Church Council

Red Wagon Sunday is today. Please put your non-perishable items in the wagon in the foyer. Thank you for your generosity!

The Early Birds Study is held every Monday at 9 AM. We are currently doing an Advent study, based on the book *Light of the World*, by Amy-Jill Levine. **Seekers-Sisters in Christ** is also doing the same weekly Advent study on Thursdays at 9:00 AM. For questions, contact Mary Alice Nyhan at 518-399-6507.

Explorers Bible Study is held every Wednesday at 9:30 AM. Each week, we watch a 30-minute video on some aspect of Christianity. This year's study is titled *The World of Biblical Israel*, by Professor Cynthia R. Chapman. The course traces the history of biblical Israel from its origins (1200 B.C.) to its emergence as a nation, and then, to a pair of kingdoms. It continues with its conquests by Assyria and Babylon, and finally, their return to Israel. Contact Pat or Mike Thomas for more information.

Christmas Offering Our Christmas Offering helps people near and far. This year we will give \$1,000 to Schenectady Inner City Ministries (SICM). This is an organization of many faith groups that support programs to help the poor. \$1,000 will be given in support of our Conference Ministry Shares. \$500 will be given to Chacocente, a community in Managua, Nicaragua. The people who live there formerly lived in the city dump. They now have farms, a school, homes and a better life. \$500 will be given to RISSE, a family-based center in Albany that helps refugees and recent immigrants. They offer classes in English and help finding jobs and housing. Shelters of Saratoga (SOS) will receive \$500. This is an outreach program serving people who live on the street. Bethesda House, a day shelter for lonely and homeless people in Schenectady, will be given \$250. Any remaining money will be divided among our three local food pantries in Schenectady, Ballston Spa and Rock City Falls. Thank you for your generous care of people in need. Merry Christmas from the Outreach Commission.

Heifer International It's that time again for chicks and ducks and, of course, that ever-popular water buffalo! We'll be collecting donations during coffee hour in Knight Hall December 1, 8 and 15, for this worthy organization that provides livestock and training for struggling and hungry families in underserved and overlooked parts of our world. We were able to donate an "Ark" (\$5,000) last year, thanks to your generosity, and have received a commemorative plaque from Heifer International in special recognition. Thank you for your support, as always! Any questions, please call Joy Walsh at 518-384-0351.

Christmas Concert The Clifton Park Community Chorus will present a Christmas Concert today, December 15, at 3 PM at the Shenendehowa UMC. This is a free concert, but you may make a free-will donation to their designated charity. Mike Zygo will be presenting a musical interlude between the choral music.

Can you count? Because of United Methodist reporting requirements, we need an accurate count of worship attendance at every service. Ideally, one person or a small group would do this each Sunday before Children's Time. Can you help? Please contact the church office.

Shelters of Saratoga SOS's supplies are critically low. They are in need of: sugar, coffee, can openers, bottled water, hearty soups, fruit juice, protein or granola bars, fruit cups, men's boxers (new, M-XL), women's underwear (new, M-XL), insulated boots, gloves, socks (new), body wash, razors, small propane tanks, sleeping bags, tents, umbrellas, shelf-stable milk, hand wipes and D batteries. There will be a bin in the foyer as well as in the hallway under the mailboxes for you to drop off any donations, or you may take them to 14 Walworth St. in Saratoga, from 7 AM to 10 PM. Thank you for your generosity.

Preschool The BHUM Preschool is now accepting registrations for the fall of 2020. There will also be an Open House on Saturday, January 25, from 10 AM till 12 noon. Any questions, please call Stephanie Tope at 518-466-6566.

*Flowers on the altar today are given by Lorna Bemis,
in loving memory of her husband Earl.*

Pastors' Email Addresses

Lead Pastor, Rev. Holly Nye: hn@nycap.rr.com

Associate Pastor, Rev. Doug Mackey: pastdm@gmail.com



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