

**We are here to: Love God, Love our Neighbor and Serve the World.**

*December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent*

### 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.

**Prelude** Carol of the Bells arranged by Georgia Burt  
String Trio

**Introit/Entry of the Light: Christ Be Our Light** Soloist: Shelby Bryson

Congregation please join in refrain:  
*Christ, be our light, shine in our hearts; shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light, shine in your church, gathered today.*

### Greeting and Welcome

**Special Music**  
10:30 Service: Cherub Choir- Bells *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*  
Cherub Choir – Sign Language *The First Noel*

**Call to Worship**  
Advent is a time we take to get ready.

**As we await the coming of the Christ Child,**  
The Spirit calls to us as wait and reflect.  
**We can be an impatient people, always on the go.**  
We take this time to prepare ourselves for the one to come.  
**He will call us to a new way, and challenge us to follow him.**  
We gather in thanks and expectation.  
**We come joyfully, filled with hope for God's presence in our lives.**

**Anthem** *Of Thy Father's Love Begotten*  
Chancel Choir

### Proclaiming the Word

**Scripture Reading** Luke 3:7-18

**Music** *Mary Did You Know* Arr. by Georgia Burt  
String Trio

**Message** The Rev. Doug Mackey

### Responding to God's Word

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**  
*Doxology* #94

### Our Church Family in Prayer

**Prayer Song** *Candlelight Carol* John Rutter

### 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.**

### Going Forth To Serve

**Hymn of Going Forth** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates* UMH #213

### Benediction

**Postlude** *Joy to the World* Arr. By Georgia Burt  
String Trio

**Thank you to our Special Musical Guests Today**  
String Trio – Faith Borkowski, violin; Georgia Burt, violin; Yu Hen Wang, viola

**Please note:** We will not "pass the offering plate;" a plate is available in the foyer as you arrive or leave. We will dedicate our gifts as part of worship – gifts brought to this sanctuary, gifts offered by mail, and gifts donated electronically, all to the glory of God. We thank you for your faithful generosity.

**We have resumed two worship services  
on Sundays, at 9 AM and 10:30 AM.**

**Christmas Eve Services:  
3:30 PM, 7 PM and 9 PM**  
**The 7 PM service is full. Please reserve your space for the  
3:30 PM or 9 PM service by calling the office.**

### Our Ministry Today

Lead Pastor: *Holly Nye*  
Associate Pastor: *Doug Mackey*  
Communication Coordinator: *Cindy Peterson*  
Music Ministers: *Pete Van Keuren & Jill Zygo*  
Treasurer: *Kimberly Spath*  
Financial Secretary: *Paula Miller*  
Custodian: *Joe Tangrady*  
Prayer Blankets: *Karen Lathrop*  
Sunday School Superintendent: *Jodi Facticeau-St. Gelais*  
Preschool Teachers: *Stacy Herbage & Stephanie Tope*  
Sound & Video: *Charles Hartmann*

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR Sunday, December 12**

9 AM	Worship
10:30 AM	Worship/Sunday School
11:30 AM	Youth Choir & Voices of Hope Rehearsal
12 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
3:30 PM	Brownie Troop #3838

### **Monday, December 13**

9:30 AM	Morning Disciples (Early Birds)
12:30 PM	BHBL Women's Club
7 PM	Church Council

### **Tuesday, December 14**

9:30 AM	Tuesday Connection Circle
7 PM	Boy Scouts Troop #56

### **Wednesday, December 15**

8:30 AM	Fixits
9:30 AM	Explorers
6 PM	Girl Scouts Troop #2502
6 PM	Girl Scouts Troop #3857

### **Thursday, December 16**

9:15 AM	Seekers Book Study
10 AM	Preschool Nativity Program (3 yr-olds)
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday, December 17**

10 AM	Preschool Nativity Program (4 yr-olds)
5:30 PM	Stampin' Up

### **Saturday, December 18**

2 PM	Youth Group Christmas Caroling
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### **Sunday, December 19**

9 AM	Worship
10:30 AM	Worship/Sunday School
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope and Youth Choir Rehearsal
12 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
4 PM	Girl Scouts Troop #2658

## BHUMC Welcome Statement

*At Burnt Hills UMC, we aspire to be a community of grace and unconditional love, where all people will find hospitality, compassion and mercy.*

*We seek to welcome all on the journey, to grow together in faith and to go out to serve the world.*

*We welcome people of any age, culture, race, nationality, ability, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, as full participants in the life of our congregation.*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be part of Jesus' movement of love and justice for all of God's children.*

*All are welcome to worship, grow and serve with us.*

## Announcements

**TODAY** is the deadline for dropping off your wrapped gifts for the Giving Tree. Thank you for your generosity!

**Morning Disciples Study** meets on Mondays at 9:30 AM. We will be reading the Lectionary readings for Advent. Remote link is also available!

**Explorers Bible Study** is usually held every Wednesday at 9:30 AM. Each week, we watch a 30-minute video on some aspect of Christianity. The current program is "Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation." Contact Pastor Doug for more information.

**Seekers, the Women's Book Study**, meets every week on Thursday mornings. The start time has changed to 9:15 AM. We are reading Advent scriptures.

**Help us Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent** As in years past, we are asking the congregation to help us decorate the sanctuary for Advent. This year our theme is **sheep and shepherds**. Please consider bringing in sheep and/or shepherds from home to place on the sanctuary window sills.

**Christmas Poinsettias** As we did last year, the Altar Committee will be purchasing a small number of poinsettias. These will be used to enhance the Advent decor on Christmas Eve. After the Christmas Eve service, the visitation team will present these to our shut-ins. If you would like to help defray the cost of the Advent decorations, we will have a basket available in the church entrance during the month of December.

**Outdoor Tree Lighting** We will be putting up names and lighting the outdoor tree this year in memory of friends and family members. Please submit your name requests to Cathy Bryson, [catbryson@aol.com](mailto:catbryson@aol.com), or call landline at 518-399-3253 to give names (and spelling) of those you would like remembered. The names will be displayed in the foyer area during the Christmas season. The outdoor tree is already lit for the enjoyment of all.

**Heifer International** The Outreach Commission is still taking donations for Heifer for Christmas. Checks may be mailed in or dropped off at the church office. If you would like to make a donation electronically, please visit the church website ([nybhmc.com/online-giving](http://nybhmc.com/online-giving)), where you will find a dropdown box for Heifer. Animal gift cards are available in the office.

**Christmas Offering** As always, our Christmas offering goes to help others outside of our church. We will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries**, as they work with other faith groups in social service and social justice. We will pay a portion of our **Conference Ministries Shares** and give money to **Chacocente**, a farming community in Nicaragua. We will also help **RISSE** in their effort to better the lives of refugees and recent immigrants. We will help support **Skye Farm** which, like many summer camps, is struggling financially. We will also be helping our local food pantries. Thank you for your gifts to others. -The Outreach Commission

Today's Scripture: **Luke 3:7-18** NRSV

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

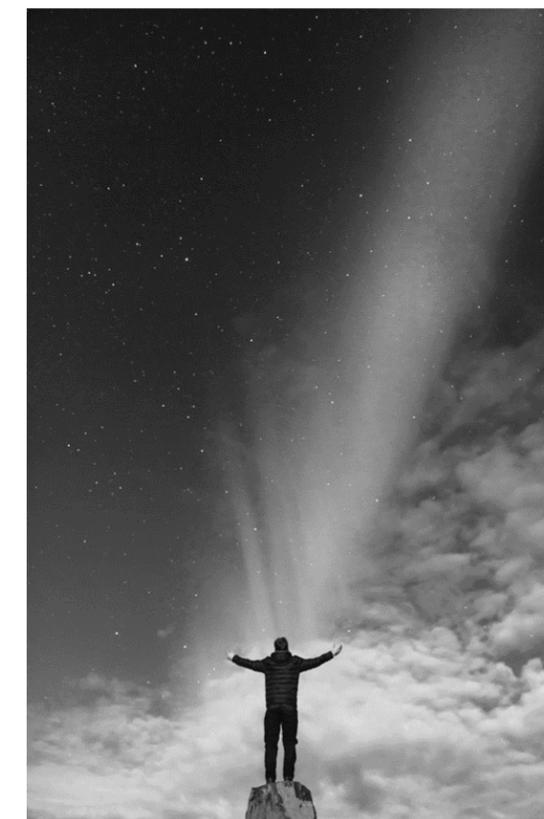
<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

### Pastors' Email Addresses

Lead Pastor, Rev. Holly Nye: [hn@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hn@nycap.rr.com)  
Associate Pastor, Rev. Doug Mackey: [pastdm@gmail.com](mailto:pastdm@gmail.com)



**December 12, 2021**



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