

**BACON MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
A family of faith since 1922**

166 59th Street

Niagara Falls, New York 14304-3812

716-283-5744

Church office hours - Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**November 27, 2022 - First Sunday of Advent**

**10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

Please silence all cell phones before worship.

\* Please stand if you are able.

**ENTER TO WORSHIP**

**Today the liturgical calendar turns over from Year C to Year A. We will move our attention from the Gospel of Luke to the Gospel of Matthew.**

We utilize Feasting on the Word, Year A words for worship.

**GOD CALLS US TOGETHER**

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**PRELUDE**      **"Praise The Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him"**      Haydn

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP**

L: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Let us now offer each other a sign of peace in genuine fellowship and reconciliation in community with one another.

**MEDITATION & OPENING PRAYER**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Maureen and Jim Kwiatkowski

O God, we light the first candle of Advent.  
(A member of a family lights the first candle.)

We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive)

L: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

**A: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,**

L: that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths. Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

**A: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #612 “We Praise You, O God” all vs.**

1. We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

3. With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

**CALL TO CONFESSION (Responsive)**

L: You know what time it is:

**A: Now is the time to wake from sleep.**

L: Salvation is near!

**A: Let us confess our sin.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION & Words of Forgiveness (Unison)**

**God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God. For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God. For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God. O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

## **WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*O God of our people and Lord of every nation, let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching and all may do your will; through Jesus Christ our peace.*

***Amen.***

***Introduction:*** Today we begin a new church year as we enter Year A. As the Old Testament reading for the First Sunday of Advent, these lines from Isaiah are Scripture's first words to the church in Advent. They are, therefore, the very first words to be heard by the church as its new year begins. Hear as we begin our new year.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 2: 1-5**      New Revised Standard Version  
(NRSV)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**R:** Thanks be to God!

**Celebration of the Baptism of Noah John Kenny**  
*Son of Christopher and Lauren (Logar) Kenny*  
**Sing Verse 1 of Hymn#482 – Baptized in Water**  
**As the family comes forward**

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King; heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

**HYMN (seated) verse 1 “Jesus Loves Me”**

1. Jesus Loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

**CHILDREN'S TIME & \*\*\*\*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 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

**SPECIAL MUSIC “O How He Loves You and Me” Kurt Kaiser**

**SECOND READING      Matthew 24:36-44**

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**R: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**SERMON**

**“A Community of Hope”**

*Pastor Lisa Giacomazza*

**\*HYMN AFTER THE SERMON #377**

**“I Want To Walk As A Child of the Light”** all vs.

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**OFFERING**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Thankful” by Josh Grobin

**\* DOXOLOGY #606**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION and THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*ACOLYTES CLAIM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

**\*BENEDICTION HYMN #541**

**“God Be With You Till We Meet Again” vs. 1 & 4**

1. God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherds care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.
  
4. God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love’s banner floating o’er you: smite death’s threatening wave  
before you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

**\*CHARGE**

**\*BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE “Blest Be His Holy Name”                      Andrae Crouch**

**LITURGIST – Lee Weinsheimer**

**Question for Reflection**

What does it mean to “get your house in order” for the coming of the Lord?  
Can we ever be perfectly ready for Christ’s return? Why is the coming of the Lord compared to a thief in the night? Is there grace in God’s surprising advent, God’s unexpected arrival?

### **Prayer for the Week (Morning)**

Lord God, you have woken me from sleep; the night is gone, the day is here. Enable me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and help me to live honorably this day, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

#### **Announcements:**

**Collection of Hats, Gloves, Scarves and Socks** – The Penguin is back in our Narthex entranceway again this winter awaiting your donation of warmth for those who need it. Our collection will be shared at the NACC as a free offering to any who may need these items this winter. We will collect these items for both children and adults throughout the winter. New or gently used hats, scarves, gloves, and NEW socks.

**ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!** We will be making delicious homemade cookie trays for some of our shut-ins this year and we could use your help! If you could please bake 2-4 dozen of your favorite cookie and bring them to the church on December 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, we would greatly appreciate it! Irene Barry will be stoking up the basement oven to bake some additional treats here at the church on December 15<sup>th</sup> and could use some helpers! Christmas carols will be playing and sprinkles will be flying! We will also need some assistance delivering the cookie trays so please let Irene or Pastor know if you are able to help with baking and/or delivering.

## **BACON'S NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS TO BE HELD December 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Bacon will hold a congregational meeting for the nominations and elections of 14 positions

at the Church including:

- Four 3-year (2025) Elders,
- One 2-year (2024) Elder,
- Four 3-year (2025) Deacons,
- Two Auditors to audit the Church's 2022 financial records and
- Three members from the congregation to serve on the 2023 Congregational Nominating Committee.

While the 2022 Nominating Committee has been working on a slate of nominees for each of the 14 positions, in accordance with the PCUSA's Book of Order, nominations from the floor are always encouraged as long as both the person nominating and the nominee are on Bacon's active roll. Nominees from the floor who do not attend the Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> nominations/elections meeting are asked to give, prior to the meeting, notification to the Clerk of Session, Carol Costantino ((716) 930-1999 (cell) or (716) 283-1589 (land)), of their intent to hold the specific office in which they desire to be nominated. Voters in these elections must be active members at Bacon. Your presence at this event can help build Bacon's future. A quorum of 20 active members is needed as per Bacon's By-Laws.

**Hand Bell Choir practice** will be **Fridays at 10:30 am** for about an hour in the sanctuary. All you need to know is your colors. Practice will be each week the same time and day. You should be able to commit until we play in church. Contact Maureen at 716-417-8519

### **Weather Closing**

*Tune to WIVB – channel 4 for closing information*

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>**

***Bacon Memorial Advent/Christmas Worship - Advent Services (10:30 am)***

**11/27/2022 Thanksgiving Offering**

**Living Nativity December 18 - 25**, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Niagara Presbyterian Church, 3712 Military Road (corner of Lockport Rd.) Start your own family tradition, enjoy the fellowship, get a great picture for next Year's Christmas card. Share your faith, without saying a word, play with the animals.

**Holiday Hope - Donation drive for Community Missions**

Needed: Holiday food, hats , gloves, scarves, coats, boots, bed linens, towels, pillows, toys, books, games. Accepting donations until December 9th. Deliver to: Community Missions, 1570 Buffalo Ave., NF, NY

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

*Lessons and Carols* - 7:00 pm & 11:30 pm

**Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day Service**, Sunday School - 10:30 am

Please pay attention to those not in worship this Sunday. Give them a call to see how they are doing or send a card to say we miss them. Together we are the church.

The **Lion's Club** is collecting your used eyeglasses, eyeglass cases and old hearing aids. There is a collection box on the table in the Narthex.

**We need Lay Readers/Liturgists!!!**  
Contact Mary Lou Smythe - 957-3194

There is a **collection bin for returnable bottles and cans** located in the coat room. This is an easy way to help with our mission projects and saves you a trip to the redemption center. If you wish to take your bottles and cans yourself, Empower has a redemption Center at 4701 Military Road (near the intersection of Rt 31). Bacon Memorial Church is Acct #1.

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**IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH**

**Opportunities at Bacon**

There will be someone in the office to answer calls

**Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Next Sun. December 4, 2022**

Sunday Worship Service, Communion and Sunday School.....10:30 am

Crochet, knitting, quilting group in the Soley Lounge.....3:00 pm

AA meeting.....7:30 pm

**ATTENDANCE: Nov.20, 2022**

*Church closed due to snow storm*

Adults.....

Youth.....

Sermon - Hand delivered.....2

Sermon - Mailed.....6

Sermon - e-mailed.....

Facebook views .....

You tube views.....0

We are committed to continuing our on-line worship on a weekly basis and we encourage you to continue to watch and share our message with your family and friends. Our on-line worship can be found on the **Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church You Tube channel**. You will find a link on our webpage at **www.baconmemorial.org**. You can download a copy of the bulletin from our webpage so you can follow along with us! If you would like a printed copy of the sermon, you may download from the website or you may call the church at 716-283-5744 and we can send you a written copy of the sermon by e-mail/mail weekly. Thank you and may God lead us to find an end to this virus.

But if we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

Thank you to  
Ron and Fran Clements  
for donating our Sunday  
Bulletins!

