

**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

**December 7, 2025 – The Second Sunday of Advent**

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

Large Print bulletin available – on the table in the Narthex

Please silence all cell phones before worship.

\* Please stand if you are able.

**ENTER TO WORSHIP**

Liturgy used with permission from Presbyterian Outlook written by Rev Teri McDowell Ott

**GOD CALLS US TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** “Still, Still, Still” James Mansfield

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**WELCOME & 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.

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST & SECOND ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE, PEACE**

***“Come, thou long-expected Jesus ... born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.”***

**Leader:** Children of God, what are we waiting for? We wait for peace where conflict rages, for gentleness where harshness prevails. We wait for swords to be reshaped into plows, for walls to crumble and bridges to rise. We wait - longing for the Prince of Peace, who stills our storms and guides our feet.

Today we light two candles, their light is steady and sure against the dark.  
Hope burns beside peace, witnessing to God's enduring promises.  
The glow spreads wider each week, reminding us that peace is possible,  
and God's kingdom is drawing near.

We call this candle **Hope**. (*Light the first candle.*)

We call this candle **Peace**. (*Light the second candle.*)

Together they shine as signs of God's faithfulness.

**ALL: O God of still waters and quiet strength, we confess how often our lives are restless.**

**Our hearts race, our hands grasp, our voices quicken with fear. Yet you breathe calm into chaos; you steady our steps on uneven ground. Grant us your peace, O Christ, not as the world gives, but as you alone provide.**

**Leader:** Hear the song of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:14)

**ALL: We long for your peace to flow like water, quenching our thirst. Teach us to live as peacemakers, agents of your reconciling love. Come, Lord Jesus, and make peace our way.**

### **Responding in Song** **HYMN #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** A shoot shall come forth from Jesse's stump, And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

**A: He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity; He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.**

**L:** The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together, The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side. The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,

**A: And a little child will lead them all. They will neither hurt nor destroy on God's holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.**

**MEDITATION & PRAYER** as we prepare for Confession

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

**God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the**

wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

*A Moment of Silence...*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

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

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **FIRST READING    Isaiah 11:1-9**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

##### *Introduction*

- 11** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,
- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**R: Thanks be to God!**

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**Kalani Gaziyah Hamilton**

Presented by her parents, Andrea and Richard, and  
her brother and sister, Carmine and Katana

**As the family comes forward, please sing Hymn #482 “Baptized in Water”**

First Verse

At the end of the baptismal liturgy, please respond to Elder Allison Huebert as she  
welcomes Kalani into the household of God.

*(Allie) Elder:*

**Kalani Gaziyah Hamilton** has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made *Kalani* a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**ALL RESPOND: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you, Kalani into Christ’s church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

(Maureen will play “Jesus Loves the Little Children”  
as Pastor introduces Kalani to the Membership)

**HYMN #188** seated **“Jesus Loves Me”** verse 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 “Emmanuel” Roger Summers**

### **SECOND READING Matthew 3:1-12**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Ed. (NRSV)

**3** In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup>and do not presume 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>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **SERMON**

#### **“Time to Reorient Our Minds”**

*Pastor Lisa Giacomazza*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Christ is coming. He is coming to make all things new.

**Please share your joys and concerns.**

### **OFFERING**

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”** Genevan Psalter

**\*DOXOLOGY #606**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God\* all creatures here below;  
praise God\* above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

(\*some say “him”)

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

**“What can I give him, poor as I am? ... If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.”**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**Hymn #519 “You Are My All in All”**

**The Invitation**

L: On this day, early winter in the Advent season, let us come to our table together. May this sacrament bring unity and connection to us. This table extends far beyond our place of worship, and there is room for all. Can you see it? Can we envision the great diversity of God’s children here and throughout the world? At this table, Christ is our host, and we are all guests, invited to be renewed in our discipleship as we share in a taste of what is yet to come. Come taste and see that God is good!

**P: Let all who love him come to this table.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (please respond with the words in bold)

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: For what do we offer thanks to God at this table?

**P: You formed us in your image and set us in this world to love and serve you.**

L: When we were captives in slavery, you delivered us to freedom and made a covenant to be our sovereign God. When we were stubborn, you spoke to us through prophets who looked for that day when justice shall triumph and peace shall reign over the earth.

*What do we remember at this table?*

**P: We remember that Jesus, knowing the suffering he would endure, still gave his life to break walls that divide us from God and from each other.**

L: And because, O God, you gave us the gift of your only Son,

**P: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we claim his strength.**

L: Now, by your presence, O God, make sacred this feast in memory of Jesus Christ. As this broken bread was scattered like grain on the hillsides, and then, when gathered together from the ends of the earth into your eternal realm, like Christ, who was offered up to you that we might live, and like this wine, which was poured out that all might share in the signs of new life, so may the lives of your people be poured out in compassion, and in solidarity with the poor, the oppressed, and the hungry of this world. We ask that you would be among us in this meal. Allow this bread and cup to remind us of your home for us. Allow this meal to fill us to the brim so that when we leave this space we carry bits of you with us. Allow this meal to nourish us in the way only you can. We are inviting you in. Amen.

**\*Hymn #581 “Glory Be to the Father”**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen...amen.

**Words of the Institution**

**Proclaim the Mystery of Faith** (together)

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Please come forward for communion service – first the bread, then the cup.**

Take your time as you experience the elements.

If you are not able to come forward, pastor will come to you.

**All people are invited to receive Holy Communion.**

**COMMUNION HYMN #227 “Jesus Remember Me”** (recorded version)

**THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Please stand if you are able)**

L: Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.

**P: Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us.**

L: So, Lord, May we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven with whom we join in these sacraments. Amen

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

### **WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

**\*BENEDICTION HYMN #756 “O God of Every Nation”** verses 1, 2 & 4

**\*CHARGE**

**\*BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE “Light Dawns on a Weary World”** William P. Rowan

**LITURGIST – *Bill Springer***

Dec. 14 – Allie Hubert

Dec. 21 - AJ Rockwell

Dec. 24 – 7 pm - Bill Springer

Dec. 28 –

We need Liturgists. Everything is written out for you. Call the church office 716-283-5744.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **“Your Hands, His Work”**

***Do you feel God nudging you toward deeper service in our church family?*** Becoming a **deacon** is a meaningful way to live out your faith through compassion, leadership, and support for our congregation. Our church is seeking faithful members with a heart for service to join the deacon ministry. Deacons help care for the congregation, support worship, and extend Christ’s love to our community. If you feel called, please speak with Pastor Lisa or Allie Hubert from our Nominating Committee. You can do what you are able to do – this is a team effort! Elections for all offices will be held on **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** immediately following worship.

**TODAY** - Join us at noon to celebrate **Kalani Hamilton's baptism** as well as **Mykenna & Mykensa Scott's 7th birthday!** As usual, the twins are not asking for or expecting gifts, they just want to celebrate with their church family!

**Dec. 14 – *White Christmas*** – bring a child’s gift wrapped in white paper to put under our tree. *Major Murray will be the guest speaker*

**Dec 21 - *Blue Christmas Service*** at 6 pm at Lewiston Presbyterian

**Dec. 24 - *Christmas Eve*** at Bacon Memorial - 7 pm.

Please note: Riverside will hold a service at 10:00 pm.

## **January 1 – Annual Reports due**

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – church closed

### **Country Meat Sticks for Sale**

The Fall Festival committee is selling flavored meat sticks for \$1.50 each or 2 for \$3.00. Flavors include: Sweet Annie Brown, Bold Teriyaki, Hot Cajun, Sweet Maple Bacon, Pepperoni and other flavors. See Sandy Quinn, Cheryl McInerney, Bill Springer.

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.

If you would like to order **flowers for the retable**, please call Ron Clements at 716-283-9411. You may want to honor someone's memory with flowers in remembrance of a birthday or place a rose when a child is born.

### **Lewiston Choraleers**

Please come and enjoy some Christmas joy!

Pastor Lisa and Barry Rose as well as some of our NAP friends are members!

### **The Sounds of the Season**

*Admission \$5 (Children 12 and under – free)*

#### **Saturday, Dec 6 – 2pm**

First Presbyterian Church Lewiston – 505 Cayuga Street

#### **Saturday, Dec 13, 2025 – 2pm**

St. James Lutheran Church – 2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls

#### **Sunday, December 14, 2025 – 2pm**

Messiah Lutheran Church – 915 Oneida Street, Lewiston

## **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**

### **Sun. December 14, 2025**

Worship service, Sunday School .....10:30 am

White Gifts, Major Murray guest speaker

Crochet, knitting, crafting group.....2 pm

AA meeting.....7:30 pm

### **Attendance: November 30, 2025**

Weather: cloudy

Adults.....27

Youth.....7

Sermon – Hand delivered.....1

Sermon – mailed.....5

Sermon – emailed.....7

Facebook plays.....

You Tube views.....

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](http://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 email or mail weekly.

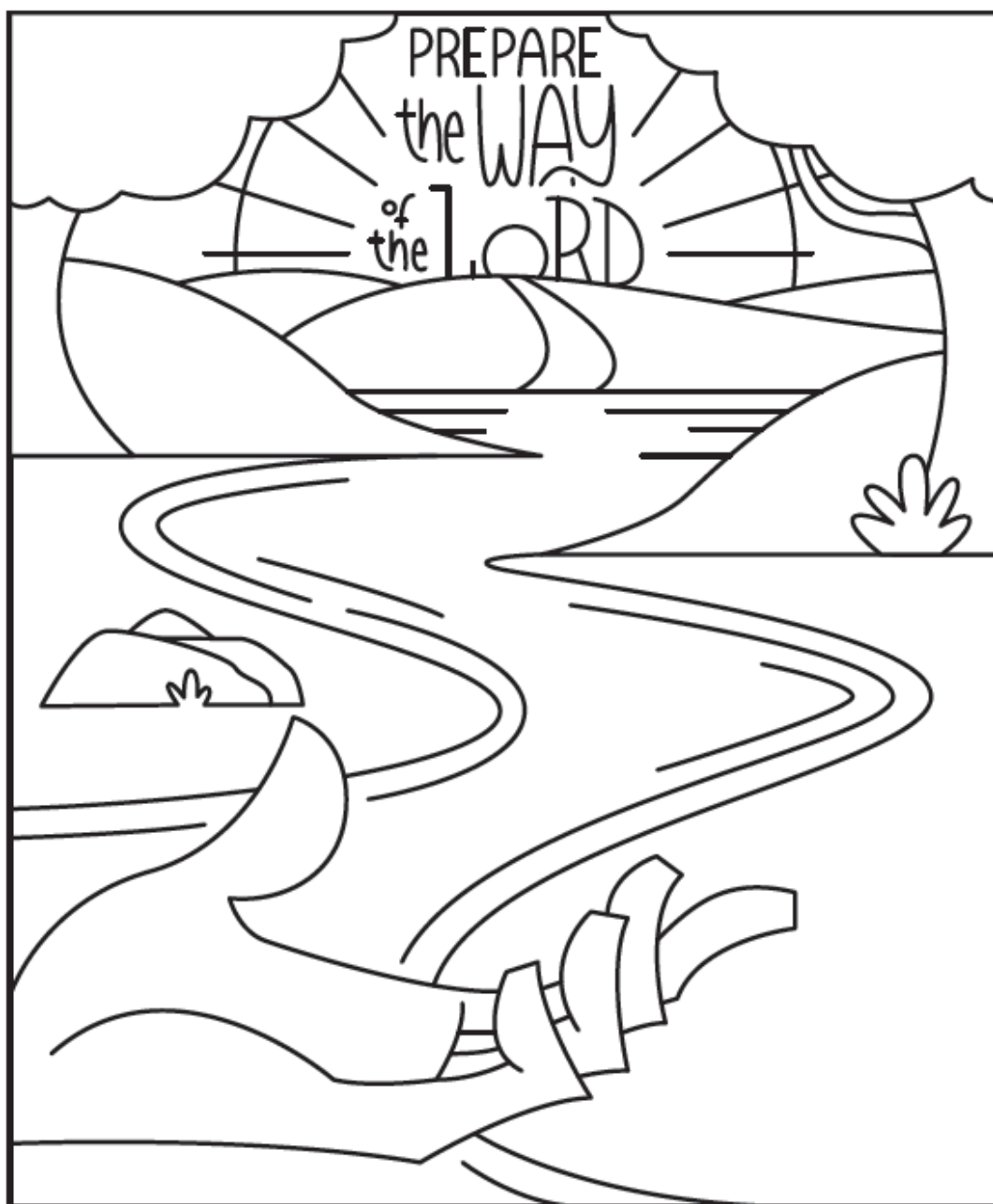
But if we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7



THE WILL TO  
**DREAM**

**ADVENTTWO**  
PROPHETIC PEACE • MATTHEW 3:1-12

Interactive Worship Bulletin for All Ages



# SKETCH & GUESS

Based on our theme of peace and our story about John the Baptist, find something in worship to draw that's related to either or both of these topics. Next, have a buddy try to guess what you have drawn and how it might be connected to today's service. Then, allow them to draw something for you to guess.

SKETCH

GUESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SKETCH

GUESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# WORDS TO CARRY

Write down three words from worship you will carry with you this week.



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## **Rada Cutlery Sale – on-line ordering**

The Mission & Outreach committee of Bacon Memorial is holding a fund raiser with Rada Cutlery, those wonderful stainless-steel knives that we all love.

If you wish to help us: Google ***Rada Fundraising***

Scroll down to “***Select your fundraising group – Rada Fundraising store***”.

Then “What Fundraising Group do you want to support?”

Click on - ***Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church Missions***

This should take you to the current catalog.

The whole catalog (including knives, mixes, baking sheets and utensils) will pop up and you can shop.

Then put in your payment information (debit, credit, PayPal, etc.) and the items will be sent directly to your home.

Easy Peasy.

If you are not computer savvy and prefer to order by check, make the check payable to **Bacon Memorial** & *Mission committee in the memo line*, give it with your order to Cheryl McInerney and we will take care of your order.

See Cheryl for a catalog, or you can order on-line, and the profits will go to the Mission and Outreach committee.

This would be a good time to start thinking about Christmas gifts.

The Mission and Outreach committee gets 40% of all sales and we thank you!

## What's Happening at Bacon

**December 2025**

**Dec. 7** - Worship, Communion, Sunday School.....10:30 am

Baptism – Kalani Hamilton

Mission and Outreach meeting – following worship

Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm

AA meeting.....7:30 pm

**Dec. 7** - Join us at noon to celebrate *Kalani Hamilton's baptism* as well as *Mykenna & Mykensa Scott's 7th birthday!* As usual, the twins are not asking for or expecting gifts, they just want to celebrate with their church family!

**Dec. 9** - *Session meeting* – by zoom.....7:00 pm

**Dec. 14** Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am

*White Christmas* – bring a child's gift wrapped in white paper to put under our tree.

*Major Murray will be the guest speaker*

Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm

AA meeting.....7:30 pm

**Dec. 16** - Worship & Music meeting – by Zoom.....7:00 pm

**Dec. 20** - Deadline for January Bacon Visitor announcements

**Dec. 20 Presbyterian Men** – 9 am

**Dec. 21** - Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am

Congregation meeting to elect officers

Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm

AA meeting.....7:30 pm

**Dec 21** - *Blue Christmas Service* at 6 pm at Lewiston Presbyterian

**Dec. 22** - Presbyterian Men – **Christmas Caroling** – 6 pm – all are welcome to join the singing and merriment

**Dec. 23** – **Bacon's night at the Living Nativity** – Niagara Presbyterian Church – Military and Lockport Roads. 7 – 9 pm.

**Dec. 24** - *Christmas Eve* at Bacon Memorial..... 7 pm.

Please note Riverside will hold a service at 10:00 pm.

**Dec. 28** - Worship, Sunday School.....10:30 am

Crochet, knitting group.....2 pm

AA meeting.....7:30 pm