



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Communion Sunday and 1st Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #145

“What Child Is This”

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalms 124 & 46)

Worship Leader

Leader: Christ is coming!

People: We see the signs!

Leader: Christ is coming!

People: We will be ready!

Leader: Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

All: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Hope”

The Sprague Family

Reader: On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place: With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

We light this candle in hope. [*Light the first purple candle.*]

People: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

Gathering Prayer

Kathy Foresi

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence and our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgment and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

*please stand

Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News! God is confirming your heartfelt belief

People: so that we will stand faultless with all those who appear with Jesus before our Maker.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Word

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Kathy Foresi

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Dr. Yvan Kelly

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Announcements

Angel Tree Gift Due Back December 2 - Thank you to all who adopted an Angel from our Angel Tree list this year. All gifts need to be put in a single bag, or multiple bags with copies of your tag on each bag/large item. As a reminder, all gifts need to be back at the church by tomorrow, December 2. Thank you again and God bless.

Breakfast with Santa December 7 - Kirkwood's annual Breakfast with Santa will be held this Saturday, December 7. Breakfast is from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; pictures with Santa from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Children are free and donations for adults are welcomed. A reservation form can be found on the table in the narthex. You can drop your completed reservation form off in the office.

Church Office Closed Until December 9 - The church office is closed this week and will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 9.

Men's Christmas Dinner December 11 - The annual Men's Christmas Dinner will be held at Mission BBQ, 8440 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32244, on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Shawn Brecht at 904.718.3128.

Bunko December 14 - The next Bunko night will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is needed and it is fun for all ages. The entrance fee is \$10.00 per person and includes dessert. All proceeds go to the church's building and grounds fund.

Congregational Meeting December 15 - There will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, December 15. The purpose is to elect new Session members and present next year's budget.

Christmas Joy Offering December 22 - The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers and their families in their time of need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. To contribute to this special offering, please use the Christmas Joy offering envelopes in the friendship pads.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 - This year's Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m.

Financial Giving - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



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