



## Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

### Gathering

**Welcome and Ministry Announcements**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**\*Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**\*Call to Worship**

Worship Leader

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**People: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God’s praise.**

**All: Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

“Love”

Greg Miller and Teresa Greenawalt

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.

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry: “Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Savior, for the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God’s name.

With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we tell the good news of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, who came to save us, and is coming again to rule in glory.

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

We light this candle for peace. [*Light the second purple candle.*]

We light this candle in joy! [*Light the pink candle.*]

We light this candle with love. [*Light the third purple candle.*]

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

**Alleluia!**

**Gathering Prayer**

Toni Knieling

**Call to Confession**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

\*please stand

## Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**People: Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the peaceful as weak. We demean those who disagree with us. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceful kingdom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.**

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

## Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News! God listens to the prayers of the people.

**People: God's face shines on us in Jesus Christ, that we may be saved.**

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

Micah 5:2-5a

Toni Knieling

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### New Testament Reading

Luke 1:39-45

Dr. Yvan Kelly

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

“Faith, Joy, and Hope”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Middle Hymn**

“Waiting Here For You”

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

**I BELIEVE  
in God the Father, Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by  
the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again**

**from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers and Offering**

**Prayers of the People/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 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.**

### **Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory Song**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**People: Holy God, we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ’s ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory with us today and still yet to come. Amen.**

### **Sending**

**\*Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Charge and Blessing**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

## Announcements

**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.

**Church Office Closures** - The church office will be closed on December 24, 25, and January 1.

**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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