



United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second St.
Bloomington, IN 47401

December 7, 2025 Worship Guide
Second Sunday of Advent
Guest Minister
Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz

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Welcome & Announcements Elder Allen Pease

Prelude *Music for Ascension Part Three* Composed and performed by Benjamin Watkins

Call to Worship Deacon Michelle Heitink, liturgist



Lighting of the Advent Wreath ♦ The Candle of Peace

Liturgist: This morning we light the second candle of Advent...the candle of Peace.

Lighting: *First the Candle of Hope, then the Candle of Peace*

Liturgist: In our Advent waiting, we hear the promise of the coming of Jesus, into a manger, and into our hearts and homes. We dedicate ourselves to preparing the way for a Savior by lifting up the valleys in our own lives, and by making smooth the rough places of others. We await Emmanuel, God with us, in peace. Come now to worship with the anticipation of the day when God's peace will cover the world forever.

Liturgist: Let us pray:

People: **Lord God, only You are the giver of perfect peace. You call us today to prepare the way for the coming of Your only Son. Your compassion for whole world, imprisoned by our sin and the sins of others, is amazing. Is it any wonder that you call us to rejoice in our waiting? Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #8

Prayer of Confession (in unison with Liturgist)

Rather than focusing on our excuses, O Lord, we focus on our failures to take concrete steps to bring your light where we are able. We confess our lack of energy because of long lines while shopping, or too long a list of self-imposed hectic holiday habits, while ignoring just how blessed we are to know so many, while not noticing those with little, or have spoken empty words without offering genuine action, or worse, no action at all. Wake us! Help us to renew our words with actions following them, and forgive us, we pray (Silent Prayer). Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness The Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz

***Gloria Patri** #579



Passing of the Peace

Liturgist: God sends this message of joy to all people, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share Christ's peace with one another

Music for Meditation *In the Bleak Midwinter* UPC Quartet

Prayer for Illumination (Liturgist)

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit, that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.



The Old Testament Lesson *Isaiah 11:1-10* – Liturgist Heitink

The New Testament Lesson *Matthew 3:1-12* – Rev. Lenz

Pastor: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

Sermon *God's Shalom* Rev. Edie Lenz

***Sermon Hymn:** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* #2

Affirmation of Faith— The Apostle's Creed (traditional) led by Reverend Lenz

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise

“Blessed are You, Lord God.....and so, with the company of all believers and those around the throne of God we sing....

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty.

God in three persons, blessed Trinity! (#138)

Pastor: We give you thanks for the Word made flesh in Jesus of Nazareth...Great is the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Elements

The congregation is invited to come forward.

One Bread, One Body UPC Quartet

Prayer after Communion

Prayers of the People – Deacon Michelle Heitink

The Lord's Prayer – music by A.H. Malotte The UPC Quartet

Call for the Offering – Deacon Heitink

Offertory

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Reverend Lenz

*Closing Hymn: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* #31

Charge and Benediction Reverend Edie Lenz

Postlude *Joy to the World* Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com

The family of Sue Lorimer as they mourn the loss of her brother Tim Masters
Kevin Jones Roby Lorimer Virginia McCartney Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson
His Eyes Mission in Honduras Nyaka Global in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri
The food pantries of Monroe County as they struggle with increased demand
The people of Georgia, Nigeria, Middle East and Ukraine



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Prepare the Way – Isaiah 40

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering we prepare the way for church leaders and students of color at Presbyterian related schools. Of the offering, 50% smooths the path for church workers and clergy in times of need and 50% prepares students of color to learn and grow at Presbyterian schools. The PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering will be received at UPC the 4th Sunday of Advent (12/21) and our service of Lessons & Carols (12/28).



The 2025 Hat & Mitten Tree . . .

. . . is in Fellowship Hall. Please decorate it with hats, mittens, gloves, earmuffs and scarves in *sizes from toddlers to Teens*. The *decorations* will be given to agencies serving children in need. Don't have time to shop? Stephanie Worden has volunteered to shop. Simply bring in check/cash and she'll shop for hats and mittens on your behalf. Last day to decorate the tree is Monday, December 15.



Bloomington Chamber Singers Announces Annual Messiah Sing-Along

Bloomington Chamber Singers is excited to invite both singers and nonsingers alike to their annual Messiah Sing-Along. A community tradition for over thirty years the Messiah Sing-Along, featuring members of BCS and a wonderfully talented chamber orchestra, is free and open to the public. Bring your copy of Handel's Messiah, or borrow one from the Chamber Singers and sing side-by-side with members of Bloomington Chamber Singers. Just want to listen? Come along and enjoy the "Christmas" elements of the Messiah as a wonderful way to augment your holiday season. Bloomington Chamber Singers is joining forces with Hoosier Hills Food Bank as a donation site to help those in need.

The chorus will be accepting donations of canned goods to help support the mission of the food bank. The sing-along, scheduled for 3 pm, Sunday, December 14, under the direction of BCS Artistic Director, Caio Lopes, and will feature soloists from the choir. For more info, please visit: <https://www.chambersingers.info>. Location: St. Mark's, 100 N. St. Road 46. Event is free. Donations of canned goods for Hoosier Hills will be gratefully accepted.



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