

November 30, 2025

1st Sunday in Advent (Hope)

9:30AM

PRELUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

L. Larson

Piano – David Merrill

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT HYMN 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

M. Kellner

Adult Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Dennis Balog

Leader: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh," says the Lord; "your sons and daughters shall prophesy;

People: your old people shall dream dreams, and your young people shall see visions."

Leader: As we begin the season of Advent, we share God's dream for this world:

People: "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;

Leader: nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore."

People: Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ADVENT MUSIC

Light One Candle For Hope

H. Sorenson

Solo – Everett Clarke

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Kathy Lohff, Cathy Hess, and Scott Rundle

The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light!

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined!

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders;

And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season of waiting for Christ to come;

Today we light the Candle of Hope; our hope is in Jesus, the Promised One from God!

All: We light this candle of Hope.

RESPONSE

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope

H. Sorenson

He brings hope to every heart, he comes, he comes

Congregation – Join on response

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sarah Wilson, Chaplin

Gracious and Loving God, we praise you for sending Jesus Christ as the light of the world.

We confess that we often live as if Christ's light had never dawned; as if it will never return to chase away the shadows of sin and death forever. Forgive us, Lord, and renew our hearts

and spirits, that in this season of Advent we may learn anew what it means to wait for the Lord, whose day is near, and to prepare Christ's way in our ministry. Through Christ we pray.

**MUSICAL MEDITATION,
HYMN 90**

Wait For The Lord
1 Time – Adult Choir
2nd– 3rd Time – Congregation

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI HYMN 581**

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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Kathryn "Kat" Green, Director of Children's Ministry

ANTHEM

Dream On, Dream On
Solo – Anthony Rivera

S. Lee

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Dennis Balog

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:1-16

SERMON

"In Dreams Begin Responsibility"
Isaiah 49:1-7

Pastor J. C. Austin

***HYMN 97**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from the *Book of Order*, PC(USA))

Sarah Wilson, Chaplin

The church is called to be Christ's faithful evangelist: going into the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all he has commanded. It is called and sent to participate in God's activity in the world through its life for others by healing and reconciling and binding up wounds; ministering to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the powerless; engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger and injustice; and giving itself and its substance to the service of those who suffer, sharing with Christ in the establishing of his just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world. The Church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life, trusting in God alone as the author and giver of life, sharing the gospel, and doing those deeds in the world that point beyond themselves to the new reality in Christ.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder Dennis Balog

A portion of today's offering supports our Worship ministry as it seeks to praise God through the diverse musical and artistic gifts of our church and community. This includes our Praise Band and Adult Choir, our SEEK band and Children's Choir programs, our Art Gallery, and all liturgical aspects of our worship life.

To give: text **Woods** to 73256 or go to **"Give"** on **woodschurch.org** or use the **QR-Code** on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BuxWV101

D. Buxtehude

Trio – David Merrill, Tom Magette, David Thompson
Adult Choir

***DOXOLOGY HYMN 607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sarah Wilson, Chaplain

**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 sins, as we
forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***HYMN 104**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor J.C. Austin

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Threefold Amen

M. Haugen

Adult Choir

***POSTLUDE**

Canzonetta in A Minor

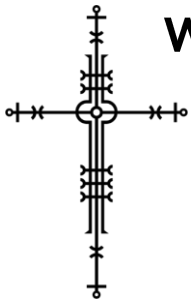
D. Buxtehude

Organ – Jung-hoon Park

*Please stand if you are able

Woods Church services are live streamed and available for public viewing via YouTube on our website (www.woodschurch.org). Current church activities and events are also available for viewing. Check us out!

A Stephen Minister will be available, to the side of the chancel by the Stephen Minister banner, at the end of the service to listen and to pray with you. 9:30AM Betsy Stewart



Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

November 30, 2025

Our Vision: To be a voice of faith transforming lives and society through Jesus Christ

Our Mission: Welcoming all to grow and serve in Christ

The flowers today were arranged by Jenny Henry and are given for the glory of God.

We are glad you are worshiping with us today.

Join us for bagels, coffee, and fellowship after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education/Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School Registration Forms are Located on the Welcome Desk

Time	Location	Time	Location
8AM Men's Bible Study	Room 208/Virtual	11AM An Unlikely Advent All Children	Conference/Virtual Room 107
9:30AM Adult Bible Study	Conference/Virtual	12:15PM SEEK Band	Choir Room
Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110	2PM Confirmation	Room 212
2 & 3-year-olds	Room 115	3:30PM HS Confirmation	Room 212
4, year-olds - Kindergarten	Room 107	5:00PM Bound for Bethlehem	Founders Room
1 st – 2 nd graders	Room 150		
3 rd – 5 th graders	Room 152		
Middle & High School	Room 208/212		
10:30AM Children's Choir	Choir Room		

Upcoming Events & Church News

Give the Gift of Giving this Christmas! Share the love of Christ, and buy Christmas gifts that will change the lives of people who are in the heart of God, while warming the hearts of those on your gift list. **Sunday, November 30 through December 21**, join us in Fellowship Hall for a Season of Giving at Woods for you and your family.

Ways to Participate in this Year's Season of Giving

Sponsor Local Children: Buy toys or clothing for local children referred to us by SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods). This year we hope to assist 35 children from 1-12 years-old have a few gifts to open Christmas morning. **Items are due back no later than Sunday, December 7 at 12PM.**

Elderly and Disabled from Pinewood Village: Provide a laundry basket for elderly or disabled adults in a low-income housing neighborhood in Glen Burnie. While there are many programs that support their rent and utilities, during the Christmas Season, we feel called to provide these residents with the basic necessities. **Baskets are due back December 7 at 12PM** and will be delivered on Saturday, December 13.

Alternative Gift Drive – Make a gift donation to a Woods' Partner organization. Receive a Christmas card to give as a gift to a friend or loved one and change a life. Alternative Gift Catalogs are available in Fellowship Hall or online at woodschurch.org (use the upcoming events Alternative Gift Icon link.) For those making on-line donations your gift cards can be picked up on Sundays or in the church office. Gift donations will be taken until December 21.

Purchasing a product from one of our many mission Partners!

- Cuba Partnership – November 30, and December 7, 14, and 21
- Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN) – December 7

Woods Christmas Concert: Wonder and Glory – This Is Our Story! Saturday, December 6, 7PM | Sanctuary | Free Admission Join us for *A Storybook Christmas!* Experience the joy of the season through music, dance, and storytelling featuring the **Adult Choir, Praise Band, SEEK Band, Woods Dancers, Elysian Dance Theater**, guest musicians, and members of our Woods family sharing stories of their Christmas treasures. Enjoy favorite carols and the music of Christmas—a Christmas chapter not to be missed! Free admission, but **registration is required** at www.woodstix.org. For more information, contact David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org.

Evening Advent study – Bound for Bethlehem: An Advent Journey, Sundays November 30-December 21 from 5-6:30pm. The course, facilitated by Kathy Lohff, follows Mary and Joseph on their journey and spiritual pilgrimage to Bethlehem. We'll parallel their travel with our own spiritual journey. All will share a potluck gathering in Founders with the class immediately following the meal. Kat and Company will offer a related Kid's Christmas Club activity. Because of the meal component and space planning, we ask that you register ahead of the class on Realm, Events tab. Zoom Meeting ID: 898 3029 2180 Passcode: 372038

An Unlikely Advent, Sunday, November 30-December 31 | 11AM – Adult Education invites you to a 4-week study on *An Unlikely*. Explore the Nativity story through the eyes of often-overlooked characters -- Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds -- as The Reverend Rachel Billups guides us through themes of hope, love, joy, and peace. Books will be available in the office. Meets in the office conference room and on Zoom Meeting ID: 892 8782 2779 | Passcode: 086376.

Dinner Church Experience – Join us on **Monday, December 1**, in **Fellowship Hall** for our **Dinner Church Experience!** We'll begin with a **gathering time at 5PM**, followed by **Dinner Worship at 5:30PM**, concluding around 6:30PM. This will be a **family-friendly, multi-generational evening** of food, faith, and fellowship in a comfortable, casual setting. We'll gather around tables as dinner becomes part of the worship service. The **Children's Ministry** will host our annual Advent Event full of resources and activities to prepare your home for the countdown to Christmas Eve! This year's preparation is as **Cute as a Button from 5-5:20PM** just before Dinner Church services in the Fellowship Hall.

Poinsettias in Honor or Memory of a Loved One. Each Christmas, Woods' sanctuary is beautifully decorated with poinsettias donated by members and friends in honor or memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute, the suggested donation is **\$30** per plant. Donations can be made **online at www.woodschurch.org beginning November 23**, or **in person in Fellowship Hall on November 30, December 7, and December 14**. Poinsettias will be available to take home on **Sunday, December 28**. Help share the beauty and joy of the season through this meaningful tradition.

Woods Church Crosses – Both small and large, gold and silver crosses will be sold in the Fellowship Hall between services (10:30-11) on **November 30** and **December 14**, or you can come to the church office Monday – Friday 9AM to 4PM. These crosses are replicas of the forged iron cross hanging in our sanctuary. Any questions, contact Liz Pringle, 410.647.8914.

Winter Relief is coming Monday, January 19 through Monday, January 26. Sign-ups start Sunday, December 14 at 9AM. You will be able to sign up to help after each Service in Fellowship Hall or online in Sign-Up Genius on the Church website. Sign-ups will continue live until we start. There are opportunities for meal prep, brown bag lunch prep, evening and overnight chaperones, drivers, shower escorts, Stephens Ministers, laundry support, youth volunteers, and snack donations. Please help us help the homeless. If you want more information about Winter Relief and how you can help, please contact Scott Wiley at 410.353.1491 or email wilecoy2us@gmail.com. Thank you for helping with this important Mission.

Cecelia McKay Good Neighbor Fund – These are difficult times for many families in the County. In the month of October, through your exceptional generosity the Cecelia McKay Fund has prevented the eviction or utility shut-off of 16 families. Through direct phone contact with 48 requests for assistance, an understanding of the specific urgency of need, and counseling of the best way forward for all of these folks, Woods ultimately provided \$3,395.94 to the 16 most needy. Though the government shut-down is over, many of those "living on the edge" in Anne Arundel County continue to need assistance due to low hours or even office closure. Woods Church along with SPAN and other area Churches are stepping up to help. You truly are Christ's "Hands and Feet" on earth.