

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



December 7, 2025 ~ 9:30AM
Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

2nd Sunday in Advent (Peace)

9:30AM

PRELUDE

Andante Maestoso

Tchaikovsky

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***CHORAL INTROIT**

While We Are Waiting, Come

Adult Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Gregg Behling

Leader: Listen for what the Lord God will speak,

People: For he will speak peace to his people, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Leader: Surely God's salvation is at hand, that his glory may dwell with us.

People: Love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

ALL: Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN**

Prepare Ye (Godspell)

Praise Band

S. Schwartz

ADVENT MUSIC

Light One Candle For Peace

Solo – Clara Butler

N. Sleeth,
Arr. H. Sorenson

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Adrienne Knight from Knox Presbyterian Church

Hear the Word of God: "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent-- its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord."

Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Peace.

All: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and across the earth.

RESPONSE

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace

H. Sorenson

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

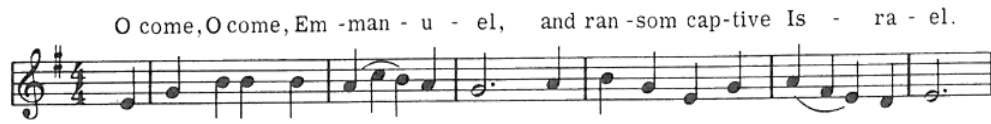
Congregation – Join on response

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

Gracious God, you send us good news of comfort and peace, of redemption and grace, of new and abundant life in Jesus Christ. But so often we close our ears against hearing it; we close our hearts against receiving it; we close our mouths against speaking it; we close our hands against sharing it. Forgive us, Lord; help us to truly repent and believe the good news, and to embody it as we live into our baptisms as your servant people. Through Christ we pray.

ANTIPHON



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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Gregg Behling

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

SERMON

"Our Wildest Dreams"

Pastor J. C. Austin

Matthew 3:1-12

*HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Verses 1, 2, 5

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from I Corinthians 15)

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder Gregg Behling

A portion of today's offering supports our Mission ministry in the area of emergency assistance. This includes our donations to the Cecilia McKay Good Neighbor Fund, which provides financial assistance for utilities, rent or other crisis needs, and to the SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) regional food pantry.

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

Song of the Promise

J. Martin

Duet - Marty Clayton, Tom Magette

*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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the Presbyterian Church, communion is open to those who desire to meet with Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation. Mindful of our vows to nurture our children in the faith, we encourage parents to include their children at the Lord's Supper.

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just to give God thanks and praise.

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 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing Bread and Cup

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor J. C. Austin

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way O, Zion

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor J.C. Austin

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Threefold Amen

Adult Choir

M. Haugen

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Pastorale based on Adeste Fideles

P. Cattaneo

*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 Lauren Lohff | 11AM Betsy Stewart

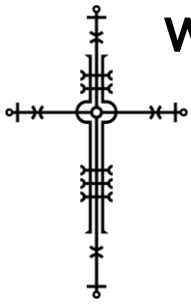


WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

December 7, 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 Delia Edelman 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	2PM Confirmation	Room 212
Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110	3:30PM HS Confirmation	Room 212
2 & 3-year-olds	Room 115	5PM Bound for Bethlehem	Room 208
4, year-olds - Kindergarten	Room 107		
1 st – 2 nd graders	Room 150		
3 rd – 5 th graders	Room 152		
Middle & High School	Room 208/212		

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: Gifts are due back no later than Sunday, December 7 at 12PM.

Elderly and Disabled from Pinewood Village: 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 – December 7, 14, and 21
- Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN) – December 7
- Hon's Honey – December 7 and 21

Evening Advent study – Bound for Bethlehem: An Advent Journey, join us for an adult education class and optional potluck supper on Sundays, December 7 - 21, 2025, 5-6:30PM, in Room 208. Led by Kathy Lohff, we will

follow Mary and Joseph on their journey and spiritual pilgrimage to Bethlehem. The Children's Christmas Club will be offered for kids during the adult class time. Zoom is available 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.

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** or **in person in Fellowship Hall on 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 (10:30-11AM) on **December 7 and 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 Daydreams - Piano Concert - FREE! On Saturday, December 13, at 2PM in the Woods Sanctuary, join Woods pianist/organist Jung-hoon Park for his concert, Winter Daydreams: From Bach's Solitude to Tchaikovsky's Snow Silhouette. This concert is free and no registration is required. A love offering will be collected to support the Woods Music Ministry. For questions, please email David at dmerrill@woodschurch.org

Join the Deacons for Christmas Caroling to the homebound on **Sunday, December 14 at 2PM.** Sign up in Fellowship Hall after the 9:30AM service or email Kathy Lohff at kathylohff@msn.com.

Christmas Eve Services – December 24 and Sunday Worship on December 28:

3 & 4PM – 12/24/25

6PM – 12/24/25

8PM – 12/24/25

10PM – 12/24/25

9:30AM – 12/28/25

Family Christmas Pageant

Contemporary Candlelight Service

Traditional Candlelight Service

Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

One Blended Sunday Worship Service

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.