

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



December 21, 2025 ~ 9:30AM
Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

4th Sunday in Advent (Love)

9:30AM

PRELUDE

Lord God, Now Unlock Thy Heaven

C. Rakich

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

Dream On, Dream On

H. Kim

Solo – Anthony Riviera

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Jonathan Leer

Leader: We gather in the name of the One who gives us hope;

People: we gather in the presence of the One who grants us peace!

Leader: We gather in the name of the One who shows us joy;

People: we gather in the presence of the One who offers us love!

ALL: Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN 110**

Love Has Come

ADVENT MUSIC

Light One Candle For Love

H. Sorenson

Solo – Clara Butler

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Doug and Liz Pringle

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the Candle of Love, next to the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

Scripture tells us, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. We love because God first loved us."

In Jesus Christ, the light of God's love chases away all the shadows of fear in our world: anger, greed, exploitation, hate.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me...will have the light of life."

All: As Christmas approaches, we wait for the fulfillment of the promise that "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!"

RESPONSE

**Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love
He brings love to every heart, he comes, he comes**

H. Sorenson

Congregation – Join on response

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

In this season of Advent, this season of waiting, we still so often find ourselves unwilling to wait upon Christ's coming. We allow despair to overshadow hope; we allow fear to undercut trust; we allow strife to overcome peace. Forgive us, Lord; help us to wait with confidence and to work with conviction in building up your coming kingdom, believing with our hearts, and minds, and spirits in your promise of the coming of Emmanuel, "God With Us."

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

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Duet – Lauren Mariah, Sarah Thompson

L. Larson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Jonathan Leer

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

SERMON

"Like Something Out of a Dream"

Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor J. C. Austin

***HYMN 87**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from The Confession of 1967)

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's own self. Jesus Christ is God with humanity. Jesus is the eternal Son of God, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of the Triune God is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder Jonathan Leer

A portion of today's offering supports our Mission ministry in the area of evangelism, both local and worldwide. This includes donations that support PCUSA mission co-workers around the world, and the Comunidad Presbiteriana de la Trinidad (CPT) serving regional Hispanic population.

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

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Adult Choir

M. Trotta

***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

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

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 93*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*****CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor J. C. Austin

CHORAL BENEDICTION*Threefold Amen**

M. Haugen

Adult Choir

POSTLUDE*Toccata on "Creator of the Starry Heights"**

P. Yon

*Please stand if you are able

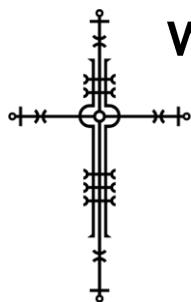
Woods Church services are live streamed and available for public viewing via YouTube on our website (www.woodschurch.org). Current church activities and events are also available for viewing. Check us out!

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

**WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

December 21, 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 The Woods Flower Ministry
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 Nursery 0-2-year-olds 2 & 3-year-olds 4, year-olds - Kindergarten 1 st – 2 nd graders 3 rd – 5 th graders Middle & High School CDC Children	Conference/Virtual Room 110 Room 115 Room 107 Room 150 Room 152 Room 208/212 Room 112	2PM Confirmation 3:30PM HS Confirmation 5:00PM Bound for Bethlehem	Room 212 Room 212 Canceled

Upcoming Events & Church News

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 4 at 10:30AM after the 9:30AM service on Livestream.
There will only be one service on at 9:30AM on Sunday, January 4. The meeting is for the purpose of changing the bylaws to allow for a board of trustees between 6 and 12 members, elected through the standard nominating process for a 3-year term.

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

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 21
- Hon's Honey – December 21

An Unlikely Advent, Sunday, November 30-December 21 | 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: O86376.

Evening Advent study – Bound for Bethlehem: An Advent Journey. The last two classes have been cancelled.

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 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.

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

3 & 4PM – 12/24/25	Family Christmas Pageant
6PM – 12/24/25	Contemporary Candlelight Service
8PM – 12/24/25	Traditional Candlelight Service
10PM – 12/24/25	Traditional Candlelight Communion Service
9:30AM – 12/28/25	One Sunday Worship Service Only

Winter Relief Monday, January 19 through Monday, January 26. 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.