

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



December 14, 2025 ~ 9:30AM
Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday in Advent (Joy)

9:30AM

PRELUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Violin – Olivia Choe, Piano – Junghoon Park

L. Larson

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary
Cello – Tim Anderson
Adult Choir

R. Edwards

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Isaiah 35:1-10)

Elder Violet Thompson

Leader: Listen—all creation rejoices, can you hear it?

All: There is so much noise and chatter, are you sure there is music?

Leader: Listen—the wilderness and desert are breaking out in song, can you hear it?

All: It's been so long since we've heard a melody of praise.

Leader: Listen—the crocus blooms with joyful singing, the very mountains join in the refrain. Can you hear it?

All: We join our voices in hope, worshipping our God who brings forth a new song in the world.

***HYMN 96**

On Jordan Banks the Baptist Cry
Verse 1 – Choir
Verses 2-4 – Congregation

ADVENT MUSIC

Light One Candle For Joy
Solo – Everett Clarke

H. Sorenson

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lee Feldman and John McLaughlin

This Third Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Joy, alongside the Candles of Hope and Peace.

We look for the coming of the Lord, who brings joy to the world. Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!

The prophet Isaiah tells us, "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

We wait for the coming of the Lord, who brings joy to the earth. Let the fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy!

Let us worship God with the light of joy in our hearts!

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

RESPONSE

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy
He brings joy to every heart, he comes, he comes
Congregation – Join on response

H. Sorenson

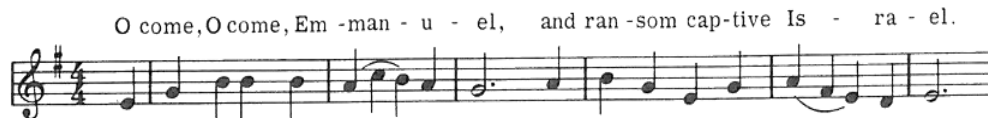
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (by Rev. Dr. Stephen Fearing)

Pastor J. C. Austin

God of Joy, you invite your creation to live in goodness and gladness, but we often choose the paths of greed and grievances. Instead of lifting up one another and

celebrating our diversity, we grumble against one another in our arrogance and avarice. Forgive us for those moments when we stubbornly refuse your way. Help us to embrace the joy that you intend for us, the joy that executes justice, gives food to the hungry, lifts up those who are bowed down, and watches over the stranger. Amen.

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

Kat, Roxann, Sarah-Eilidh-Catriona, CDC Chapel Storytellers

ANTHEM

Magnificat

L. True

Duet – Violet Thompson, Kathy Lohff
Violin – Olivia Choe, Cello – Tim Anderson
Adult Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Violet Thompson

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46b-55

SERMON

"I Dreamed a Dream"

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

Isaiah 35:1-10

*HYMN 99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Verses – 1, 2, 5

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Winter Relief

Elder Scott Wiley

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder Violet Thompson

A portion of today's offering supports our Youth ministry as it nurtures the faith of our middle and high-school youth. This includes offering regular Sunday School classes, Confirmation instruction, WoodsWork mission projects, and other youth camps, trips, and Tuesday evening fellowship time.

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

K. Bestor

Piano – Junghoon Park
Cello – Tim Anderson, Violin – Olivia Choe

*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 J. C. Austin

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 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Verses – 1, 2, 4

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds

*POSTLUDE

Two French Carols

B. Adams

Cello – Tim Anderson

Piano - Junghoon 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 Lauren Lohff | Bill Hadley

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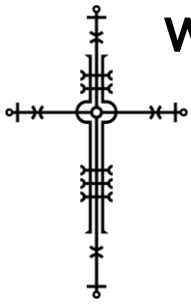
Interim Coordinator for Adult Education,

Small Groups, & Pastoral Support

swilson@woodschurch.org

Parish Associate

The Rev. Corinne Baker



Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

December 14, 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 Sue Hannahs 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	5:00PM Bound for Bethlehem	Canceled
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		
CDC Children	Room 112		

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

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 14, and 21
- Hon's Honey – December 21

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Blue Christmas Service – Tuesday, December 16 at 7PM in the sanctuary. For many, the holiday season can be a time of grief, challenge, or quiet reflection. This service offers a gentle space for rest, comfort, and healing. May the hope and light of Christ meet us even in our moments of darkness.

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 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.

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 4 at 10:30AM 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.



WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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