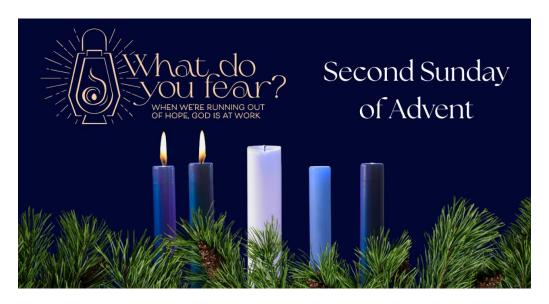


A thriving faith community engaged in compassionate service.



December 7, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Live Streaming on Facebook plus On Demand on YouTube 4369 South Buffalo St., Orchard Park, NY 14127-2611 Office: (716) 662-9348

Email: <u>info@oppchurch.org</u> Website: <u>www.oppchurch.org</u> www.facebook.com/orchardparkpresbyterianchurch

The Staff of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Wylie V. Hughes, Pastor
The Rev. Allyn Foster, Pastoral Assistant
The Rev. Mario Eugene, Pastoral Assistant for Youth and Young Adults

Program/Administrative/Support Staff

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Perry Babcock, Audio Visual Technician
Christine Cotton, Office Manager
Barry & Heather Dietsch, Music Directors
Dan Hay, Building and Grounds Coordinator
Jessica Merry, Business Manager
Amanda Putnam, Sunday Morning Christian Education Assistant
Xanda Weiss, Audio Visual Technician and Grapevine Coordinator

Order of Service

*Please rise in body or spirit

Gathering Music Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Wesley/Prichard, arr. Curry

Prelude Prepare! Joseph Martin

Greetings

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting (Woodard Family)

Reader 1 - In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

Reader 2 - I see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands,

when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

Reader 1 - You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

Reader 2 - Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

Light Candles

All - Thanks be to God! Amen.

Introit O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Sanctuary Choir

Plainsong

*Call to Worship

Leader: Family of faith, God is at work!

People: God is healing and creating, redeeming and dreaming,

Leader: Calling and sending, listening and loving.

People: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

Leader: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

ALL: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*Invitation to Confession

Leader: Near the end of his ministry, John the Baptist reached out to Jesus with a heart full of anxiety. John was in jail. He knew he might not get out, so he asked Jesus, "Did I make a mistake? Am I making a difference here? Or did I get it all wrong?" Like John, let us be fully honest with Jesus about our innermost thoughts. We can pour our heart out to God because

God always meets us with grace, tenderness, and mercy. So friends, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be honest, just like John the Baptist. Let us pray.

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)

On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Family of faith, in our honesty, we are heard. In our worries, we are held. In our failings, we are forgiven. In our fear, we are not alone. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel! When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.

People: Thanks be to God, Amen!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, let us now share the signs of that reconciliation with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. (Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you saying "Peace be with you".)

Choir Anthem Advent Credo Joseph Martin

Children's Time

Announcements

Scripture Reading Isaiah 43: 19-21; O.T. pg. 672

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:1-11; N. T. pg. 11

Sermon God is at Work Rev. Dr. Wylie Hughes

The Offering

Offertory Once In Royal David's City Gauntlett, arr. Curry

*Doxology #606 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ,

(Melody) all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune

God. whom we adore. Amen

*Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Therefore, we give thanks to you, joining in the chorus of praise that transcends time – connecting us to generations past, present, and future:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Hymn #552)

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn

The Bread and the Wine Are Here

D. C. Damon

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Listen now as we pray in the way Jesus taught us:

People: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response Amen Astorga

*Closing Hymn #106 Prepare the Way, O Zion

*Benediction

Leader: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

All: In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us; we go in peace and we will not be afraid. Amen.

Choral Benediction We Are Called to Liberation Gauntlett/Strickland

Sanctuary Choir

Postlude The Festive Trumpet Brian Glyn Cannon

WELCOME! We are glad you have joined us to worship God. If you are a visitor, we invite you to introduce yourself to our Elder of the Day, Dave Brummer, who will be available after worship.

The **LITURGIST** today is Hugh Siegner. The **GREETERS/USHERS** and **COMMUNION SERVERS** today are the David Brummer, Robert Mustard, Paul Woodard with Mary Brummer as **HEAD USHER**.

Please sign the **WELCOME PAD**, whether you are a member, visitor or a guest. If you have recently changed your address, or have any prayer requests, please include this and any other information you wish to share.

The **PRAYER BOARD** is located in the Reception Room at the name tag table. You are invited to use a slip of paper to write or draw your prayer and clip it to the board. The Prayer Board will be brought into worship; however, the prayers will not be read aloud or shared. This is a unique and special opportunity for children and adults to be able to express their joys and/or concerns.

THREE WAYS TO WORSHIP! In Person, live streamed at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and then the service (which is being recorded as we worship in person) will be available beginning Sunday afternoons on the OPPC You Tube channel which can be accessed directly from YouTube or our webpage: www.oppchurch.org. **Please be aware that the worship service is being recorded as well as live streamed and will be broadcast via the internet**.

WE WELCOME KIDS IN WORSHIP as together we are the whole people of God! Worship Bags are available in the Reception Room at the CE Table. The NURSERY will be staffed AFTER Children's Time for infants through three years old. PLAY & PRAY for kids 4 years old through first grade also begins AFTER Children's Time. Volunteers will lead the children out to their respective classrooms and remain with the kids until after worship is over. Please pick up your child from the classroom so the teachers can also be a part of Coffee Hour.

The FLOWERS on the Communion Table are given by Tricia Semmelhack in memory of her husband, Henry Semmelhack.

Thank you for your continued support of **THE 2025 GIVING TREE** at OPPC. You are able to pay for a gift card (cash, check, via the website or credit card) on the spot which will go to **FAMILY PROMISE OF WNY** for them to distribute throughout the coming year for families who have transitioned from shelter into their new place to live and need groceries or household items. You may also choose a tag and purchase one of the many gift items for **THE GENESIS CENTER** and/or **NAMI** -National Alliance for Mental Illness - operating in the Buffalo area to bring Christmas to children/youth who are not able to be at home with their families for the holidays. Tags are available until Sunday, December 14. **Please return UNWRAPPED GIFTS by 12/14.**

The Christian Education Ministry Team has begun preparations for **A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SOMETHING on SUNDAY**, **DECEMBER 21 at the ONE SERVICE at 10:30 am.** Kids of all ages lead the worship service and the sermon portion will be The Nativity Story. This is a wonderful opportunity for OPPC folks to invite their neighbors and friends to attend. Cookie Reception to after worship.

There will be **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 a.m.** on **December 21** for **A Special Christmas Something** and again on **December 28** for **Lessons and Carols**.

POINSETTIAS will decorate the Sanctuary for **Christmas EVE.** If you wish to order a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out an envelope, available at the Welcome Center and specify the number, color of red, white or pink, and how you would like your dedication to read. The deadline for orders is **TODAY.** The cost is \$10.00 per plant.

We have open dates available on the **2026** Communion Table **FLOWER CALENDAR.** The cost per arrangement is \$50.00 and will be provided by *Expressions Florist*. Please sign up on the calendar in the Welcome Center to reserve your date or call Christine in the church office at 716-662-9348.

Do you give online to OPPC? If so, be sure to check out the "*I give online*" cards available at the Name Tag Table on Sunday mornings! Pick up one of the cards and when the offering plate goes around place your "*I give online*" card in as an act of worship.

THE OFFERING is one way of many ways for us to respond to God. Monetary gifts to support the ministry of OPPC are greatly appreciated. Secure online giving is now available. Scan the QR Code with your cell phone and you will be directed to our Online Giving Site. You can also give by Text as well: 844-980-1625, enter your dollar amount and hit enter.



Liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



oppc sanctuary choir
& guests
Ceremony of Candles
Cantata
FRI. DEC 19, 7PM

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR TICKET INFO FOR EACH GROUP



