

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

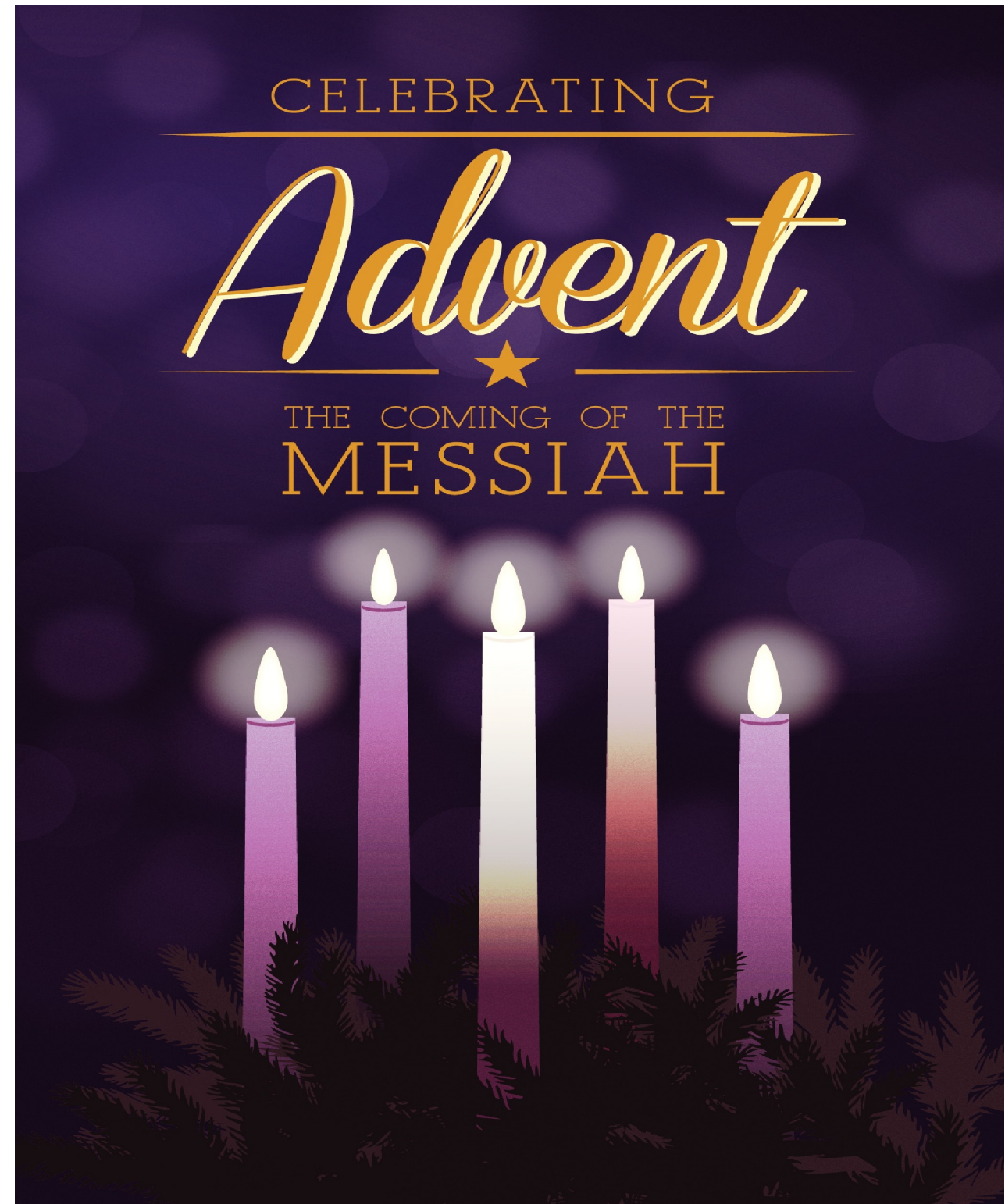
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: We will be sending out an Advent Devotional each week via email. This devotional, “Those Who Dream” includes art, reflections and prompts for a season of dreaming about “the hopes and dreams of all the world” that is heralded by the birth of Christ. If you do not have access to email, please request a hard copy from the church office. We will be printing them only as requested, so please give Vickie some lead time for your request.

DOCUMENTARY VIEWING: On Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Pastor Beth will host a zoom viewing of the powerful documentary film, *Defiant Requiem*, in which Jewish prisoners turned to music as a way of surviving their despair and also naming the evil perpetrated against them. The documentary runs approximately 1 hr and 20 minutes and will be followed by a brief time of conversation. If you are unable to attend this zoom viewing, you can purchase the documentary from Amazon, or if an Amazon Prime member, it is included in your subscription.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: Beginning Wednesday December 2nd and ending December 23rd we will join together at 6:30 p.m. for a Bible Study in the Overbey Fellowship Hall. Using Adam Hamilton's guide, we will explore Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and the valuable lessons for our lives. If you are interested in joining for this study please contact Vickie in the Church Office. *We will operate under our Covid-19 safety guidelines: physical distancing, wearing a mask, asking folks that are symptomatic to not attend.*

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: We have experienced unprecedented loss this year. Family and friends have succumbed to death in this pandemic, millions have lost economic security through loss of jobs, some have lost businesses they built over a lifetime. Most of us have lost our beloved rhythms of life that felt familiar and gave our lives the richness of gatherings and adventure. And we can name losses related to hatred and violence. As we proclaim love, joy, peace, and love during Advent, we will come together on the Longest Night of the Year (Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m.) to speak of our loss and to light luminaries which remind us of the light of Christ that shines even when all around us is pain and loss.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Each year we return to the story of Jesus' birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This account is the narrative we need to hear again and again. While the presentation may be adjusted to accommodate the restrictions of living in a pandemic, our time honored tradition of gathering will happen at 7:30 p.m. The evening will include singing Silent Night and lighting our candles, but we will be doing this segment of worship outside—a visible reminder that we are called to take our light out into the world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—DANVILLE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Participants: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart, Heather Perryman, David Parris, Ray Beale and Bernadine Hayes

Call to Worship

Prelude “*Veni, Emmanuel*” arr. Rick Deasley

Crossing the Threshold and Lighting of the Advent Candle Kim Meadows

Opening Prayer

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of untiring hope.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,
ignite the flame of hope within us,
**People: ... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

**I believe in the sun,
I believe in the sun,
even when... even when...
it's not shining.**

Prayer of Confession

Original Dreamer, over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world. We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation. We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness. We hear your dream for community and hope. We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes. We continue to live with the curtains drawn, the covers pulled tight, eyes shut to the realities of the world. Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights. Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world. With hope we pray, Amen.

Children's Time to Shine

Heather Perryman

Doxology

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”
let the poor say, “I am rich
because of what our God has done for us.”
Believe!**

Prayers in the Stillness

Litany of Belief

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Sung Coda: Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive,
to receive.

Scripture Reading

Anthem “*Keep Your Lamps!*” arr. Andre Thomas

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon “*Those Who Dream ... Keep Awake*” Rev. Dr. Broschart

Carol of Resistance “*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*”

Benediction

Handbell Benediction

Postlude “*Comfort, Comfort, O My People*” arr. Hal Hopson
adapted by Heather Perryman

*The flowers today are in loving memory of my Tom
by Ava Barrett.*

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.