

Welcome

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: We light the candle of Hope as we await the coming of Jesus, who is our source of hope.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of hope, in our times of emptiness.

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us (2 times)

Leader: We light the candle of Peace, knowing that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of peace in our times of uncertainty.

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us (2 times)

Leader: We light the candle of Joy, trusting that our comfort and help come from God.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of joy in our times of sadness.

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us (2 times)

CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we come to you this night to find you in our midst. You know that we come with heavy hearts that we find hard to unburden. During this time of year when the darkness of long nights collide with the brilliance of Christmas lights, we find it hard to express our losses. We may be confused, sad, lonely, and feeling our pain without remembering that you are always there to support us. We might even be mad at you, our Lord. Our many hurts can engulf us. Help us in this moment to turn to you. Open us to understand that you are the source of all love and we need not feel so alone in our grief. Grant us wisdom to know that you—most of all—can be trusted, and that you are with us, especially when we are at our worst. Amen.

Stay with Us

Scripture and Silent Prayer Interspersed with Singing

Stay with Us

We begin with the familiar words of Psalm 23.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Stay with Us

Hear now excerpts from Isaiah 40 that foretold of Jesus' coming and what that would mean for the world and for us.

Isaiah 40:1-5 and 28-31
Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Silent Reflection

Stay with Us

Matthew 11:28-29

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Silent Reflection

Stay with Us

John 8: 12

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

The Lord is my Light

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Invitation to the Table**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Liturgy Continues

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 471

O Lord Hear my Prayer

HEAR MY PRAYER

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Sam Gray Special Music

Prayer after Communion

On this long dark night, we await the coming of Christ. We long for the light of his presence, with us and in us. When our souls are deeply troubled, and our hearts break with the weight of sorrow, may our grief be seasoned with love, and our sorrow be buoyed by hope. In our times of estrangement, may we gaze upon our Lord, Emmanuel. In Christ Jesus we pray, Amen.

***Hymn 88**

O Come O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Benediction

Depart in Silence



We continue to keep in our prayers: *Members of the Armed Forces and their families; the family of Alan Elliott, cousin of Kathryn Berkenpas; Jill Asman and Deb Ellman, friends of Marcia Boogaard; John Clouse; Chip Crater; Margaret Fahs; Naomi & Bob Gerwin and Ronnie sister and brother-in-laws of Marcia Boogaard; Dave Gorman, son of Nancy Tietjen & brother of Beth Rudnic; Diane Gregg; Doug Henderson; Camille Kendall; Bill Malone; Dick McClain, friend of Jack Smith; Sally O'Neal; Mary Lou Plumb, aunt of Bob Plumb; Nettie Propps; Addie Rolnick, daughter-in-law of Karen Wise; Ann Rooney, mother of Julie McMahon; David Sheron, son-in-law of Bob Stow; Paddy Simpson; Del Smith.*

Prayers for all in the path of war in Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and Artsakh. We pray for peace.

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, please contact Pastor Emily at emily.dandrea@potomacpresbyterian.org or call the church office at 301-299-6007.

Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks, unless otherwise requested.



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We are an active Christian community devoted to worship that stirs the soul, education that engages the mind, and service that sends us into the world.