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**First Presbyterian Church of Palestine, IL**  
**Order of Service**  
**Third Sunday of Advent A**

**December 14, 2025**

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***Welcome to worship service at the First Presbyterian Church in Palestine, IL. Whether you are here in person, or watching us online, we are honored that you have chosen to worship with us!***

***\*\*INDICATES TO PLEASE STAND IF ABLE TO DO SO.***

**Gathering**

**Gathering Music**

**Welcome And Announcements**

**Prelude**

As our prelude is played, let us quiet our soul with meditation and prayer.

**Lighting the Advent Candle and Prayer of the Day**

Come and gather, O People of God!

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.

It's a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**Isaiah the prophet calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus  
by making straight all that is crooked.**

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."**

(Light the pink Advent Candle)

Let us pray...

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones you proclaim the unfolding of renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and sighing will be no more and the journey of God's people will be filled with joy. Amen.

**Angels From the Realms of Glory**

**Blue Hymnal #22 All Verses**

*Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

**Refrain:**

*Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

*Shepherds, in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; Yonder shines the infant light: **(Refrain)***

*Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar; Seek the great Desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star. **(Refrain)***

*All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One. **(Refrain)***

## Time with the Younger Church

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your Word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our knees as we seek to follow your holy way. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

#### Assurance of Pardon

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. This is the good news we are waiting for...

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

#### Grateful Response

**\*\*\*Gloria Patri**

*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.*

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## THE WORD

**Scripture**    **Isaiah 35:1-10**      **Matthew 11:2-11**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      ***Are You the One?***

**Rev. Nan Adams**

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**\*\*Choir Anthem**    **"Let the Earth Resound with Praise"**

#### Call for the Offering



#### **December – Christmas Joy.**

How to Give: you can go directly to our website and use our online giving platform to set up a one-time or recurring gift; you can mail your offering directly to the church (POBox 132, Palestine, IL 62451), or you can drop your tithes and offerings at the church office, Mon., Tues., or Thurs., 10 am – 2 pm.

#### Presentation of Offerings and Song of Dedication

**\*\*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology) (#606)**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

#### Prayer of Dedication

#### Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

God ...

...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.

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### SENDING

#### \*\*Hymn of Sending

#### In the Bleak Midwinter

#### Blue Hymnal #36 Verses 1&4

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2025. Liturgy adapted from liturgy written by Tracey Davenport and provided for free distribution. For more resources, visit [pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org)



**Census at Bethlehem by Pieter Brueghel the Younger, 1566.**

# 2025 Advent and Christmas Season

First Presbyterian, Palestine

December 7, Sunday

**Holiday Meal after Worship**

*Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Drinks provided. Anyone wishing to bring salads or desserts is encouraged to do so!*

December 13, Saturday

**Open House at the Manse**

**2:00-4:00 pm**

*Come by for tasty nibbles and to say hello!*

December 21, Sunday

**3rd Sunday of Advent Worship**

**10:30 am**

**Blue Christmas Healing Service**

**3:00 pm**

*We are inviting the community to join us in a service of healing for those who find it difficult to rejoice in this holy season.*

December 24, Wednesday

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship**

**7:00 pm**

*Please let the church office know if you would like transportation to this holy event.*

January 4, Sunday

**Epiphany Celebration**

**10:30 am**

We will give out Star Words this Sunday

**Community New Years' Service**

**6:00 pm**

*Place to be determined.*

*For more info, please call the Church Office at 616-586-5321.*

## PRAYER REQUEST

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### Newly Added or Updated

**Clayton Bishop** – Recent back surgery

### Our Continuing Care Concerns

**Dick McCarty** – Radiation and immunotherapy infusions  
continue to pray for him and his family

**Paul Postlewaite** – continue to pray for healing

**Jack Murphy** – Recent injury to his foot

**Jocelyne Ramsey & Family**

**Paster Tom Akers** – continuing health concerns

**Kathy Lutes**

**Prayers for the Knoblett Children** - with their ongoing  
Behavior Challenges

**Rita Garrard** – Breast Cancer

**Paul and Nancy Gray** – car accident

**Judy Kincaid** – Back injury

**Krue Williams** - Leukemia

**Luke Hayes** – Brain disorders

**Shawn Bennett** - Samantha Knoblett's Brother

**Tim Wilson** – Recent Eye Surgery

**People of Israel**

**People of Ukraine**

**Victims of Weather Disasters**

### Remember those in our church family who are in assisted living or care homes

**BridgePointe Health Campus**

**Cheryl Mefford**

1900 College Ave, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Arbor Rose of Robinson**

**Marilyn Henderson and Sharon Biggs, George Baker**

500 S Reed Street, Robinson, IL 62454

**Carle Richland Memorial Hospital**

**Mary Laughead**

800 E Locust Street, Suite 304, Olney, IL 62450

**Office Hours: Rev. Nan Adams**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 9AM-1PM**  
**Phone or Text anytime (850) 218-9252**  
**Email: [nanadams@outlook.com](mailto:nanadams@outlook.com)**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MISSION GIVING - DECEMBER

Christmas Joy

## MISSION GIVING – JANUARY

Palestine Food Pantry

## MEETING DATES

- December 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. Sessions Meeting
- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Investment Meeting
- January 18<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting

## IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

- **Choir Practice** Wednesday's at 6:45 p.m.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Food pantry needs volunteers! Monday 1-3 and Wednesday 5-6. They could use any able-bodied workers!

## LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY

- 2024 Annual Report
- The Upper Room –September/October, November/December

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Get the latest information on worship services, church activities, prayer requests, etc. by signing up to be on our email list. Go to our website, [www.firstprespalestine.com](http://www.firstprespalestine.com) and scroll to the bottom to fill out the subscription form or email the church office at [1stpresby.palestine@gmail.com](mailto:1stpresby.palestine@gmail.com).