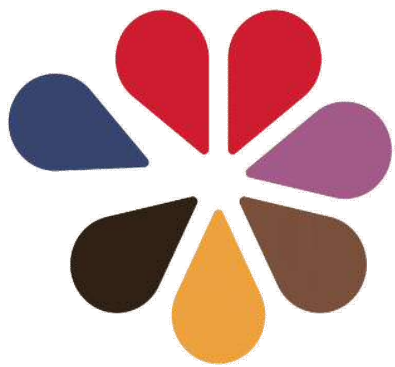
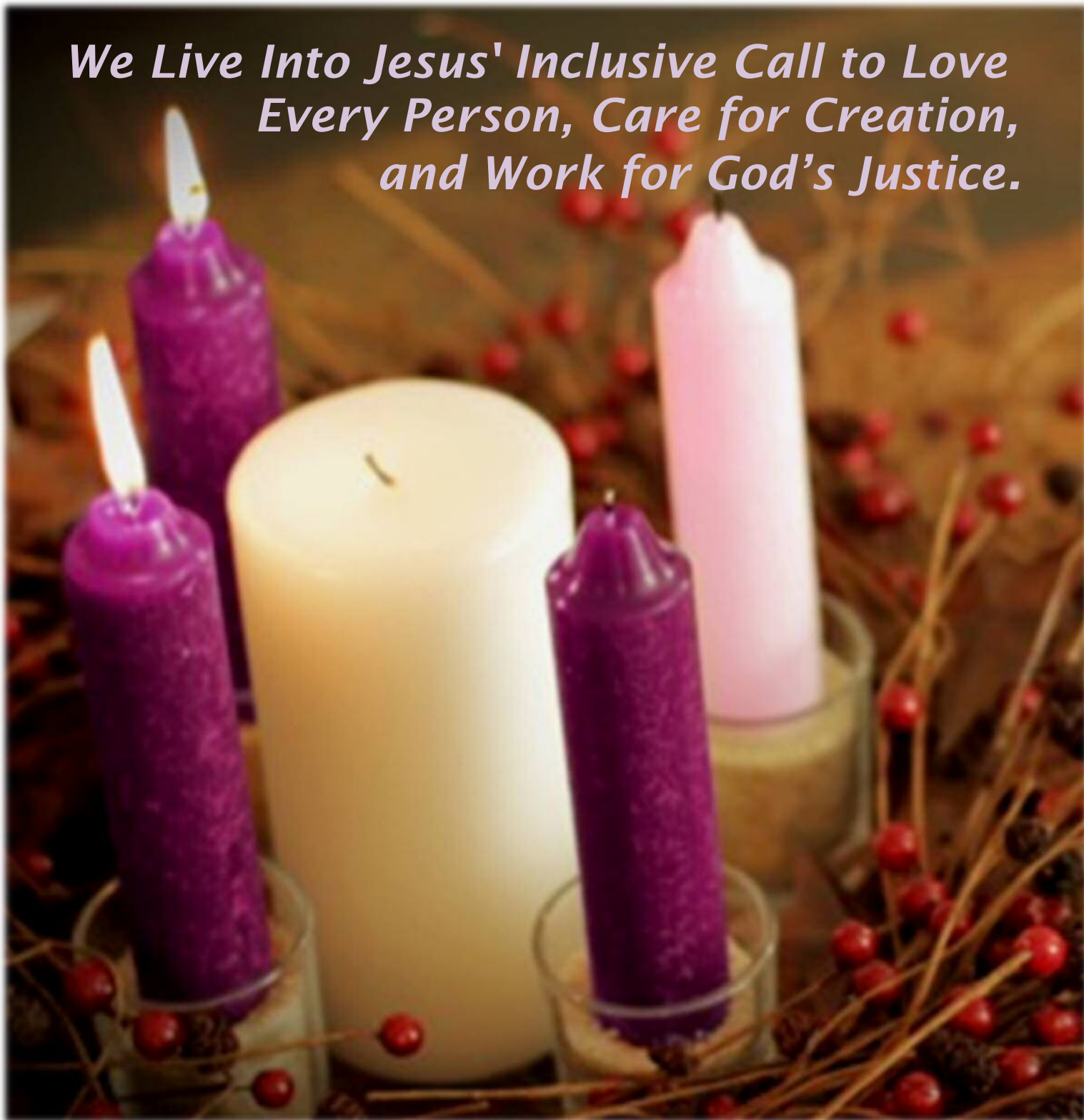




DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We Live Into Jesus' Inclusive Call to Love
Every Person, Care for Creation,
and Work for God's Justice.*





Celebration of Worship

December 7th, 2025, 11:00 AM
Second Sunday of Advent
Advent Special Music Sunday



[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share. Prayer Requests Cards will be collected during the **hymn following the sermon**.*

Prelude

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

French Carol

Text may be found on pg. 5 in the pew hymnal. Arr. Sam Scheibe

Words of Welcome

John DeHority

Announcements

Kim McConnell

Chime

Introit

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Antonio Vivaldi

"Glory to God in the highest!"

*Call to Worship (Psalm 72, Nan C. Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*)

One: Long may you live in our hearts,

Many: May praises be sung to You.

One: May our prayers rise up before You

Many: And blessings of love be freely rendered.

One: Blessed be the Beloved, the One who dwells in open hearts,
who guides us along the way.

**Many: Blessed be You, who come in the Name of Love; may your
glory fill the earth.**

*Hymn

Prepare the Way, O Zion
(*Music may be found on page 8.*)

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Lighting of The Second Advent Candle *(responsively)*

One: The prophet Isaiah envisioned a world where "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb... and all shall be safe" (Isaiah 11:6).

But our world is still filled with violence and unrest.

Many: Jesus, our Brother and our Friend, We name you Prince of Peace. We say your coming transforms our world—weapons become plowshares, least become first. *[Light the second candle.]*

One: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Many: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world. May the Light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven. Amen.

Time With Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Music of Longing

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

French 15th cent.

Text may be found on pg. 9 in the pew hymnal. Arr. John Ferguson

Prayer for Transformation

In the maddening blur of this season of our lives—in the rush from Thanksgiving to Christmas, to New Years. May we pause. Help us take a deep breath. One breath. Two breathes. Slow us down that we might find again the quiet center. May we discover anew the joy of giving – not of purchased gifts, but of precious time. May we be restored by a life lived in shared community, where we care for one another--where my peace and happiness is connected to that of those around me. Give us pause that we may consider the world we wish to live in. Then give us energy and courage to bring it into being.

Words of Assurance

One: Jesus came into this world, not to condemn the world. But that the world, through him, might be saved. Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Many: Alleluia. Amen.

Song of the Angels Calm, on the Listening Ear of Night René Clausen

*"Calm on the listening ear of night come heaven's melodious strains,
Where wild Judea stretches far her silver-mantled plains.
Celestial choirs from courts above shed sacred glories there;
And angels, with their sparkling lyres, make music on the air.*

*The answering hills of Palestine send back the glad reply;
And greet, from all their holy heights, the Dayspring from on high.
Glory to God!" the sounding skies loud with their anthems ring,
"Peace to the earth, to all good will, from heaven's eternal King!"*

*Light on thy hills, Jerusalem! The Prince of Peace is born!
And bright on Bethlehem's joyous plains breaks the first Christmas morn."*

Text: Edmund H. Sears, alt.

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-9

Music of Anticipation From *Messiah* G.F. Handel

*"There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field"
"And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them"
"And the Angel Said Unto Them"
"And Suddenly There Was with the Angel"
"Glory to God"*

Second Reading Mathew 3:1-3

Sermon What are we getting ready for?

*Hymn Come and Find the Quiet Center BEACH SPRING
(Music may be found on page 9.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

† Prayer of Jesus

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Music of Our Gifts

Catalonian Carol

Traditional Catalonian

Arr. Dale Warland

*"What can we give to the Child of Mary?
What lowly gifts will both honor and please?
We will give figs to him, raisins and olives;
We will give honey, fresh bread and cheese.*

*What can we give to the Child of Mary?
When in our searching to him we are led?
Softest wool, a small coat that will warm him,
And a wee cap that will cover his head.*

*What can we give when the darkness is falling?
What can we give when he cries in the night?
Lullabies, glorias, glad alleluias,
Treasures of song that are joyous and bright."*

Trans. and adapt. Melva Rorem

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

*"What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,
for to sing the birth of this, our heavenly king? Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day
That sees December turned to May.*

*Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden?*

*Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the underearth.*

*We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart.*

*Which we will give him; and bequesth this holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.
What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this,
our heavenly king? "*

Text: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Let songs rise up from earth below;
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Holy and generous God, use the gifts we bring for healing and
reconciliation in the world, to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn REJOICE, REJOICE
(Verses 1, 2 and 4—Music may be found on page 10.)

*Benediction

Postlude

For Unto Us a Child Is Born

G.F. Handel

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6, KJV*

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to one another.



Thank you to...

Worship Leader: John DeHority

Liturgist: Kim McConnell

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Cecelia Allchin, Morgan Cox, Isa Apodaca, Nicole Knickerbocker,

Lindsey Puc, Joan Sussman Alto: Alyssa Koh, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Shawn Cox, Mark Darling

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,

Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier

Guest Instrumentalists

Siena Stevens - oboe, Caroline Cornell and James Marshall - violins
Clara Smallwood - viola, Rachel Mills - cello

Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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We continue to welcome a wide variety of worship leaders. The Worship Team and the Session encourage you to consider what speaks to you in each worship experience and share your feedback with them.

You may write to: session@downtownpresbyterian.org

OR worship@downtownpresbyterian.org. This feedback is vital as decisions are made about our pastoral leadership.

Next Sunday we welcome Rev. Deb Swift.

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 7

10:00AM Advent Festival Begins
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Advent
Music Sunday
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Advent Festival Continues

Tuesday, December 9

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study
6:30pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, December 10

7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, December 11

5:00PM Finance Team Mtg, Zoom
7:30pm Property Team Mtg, Zoom

Sunday, December 14

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Rev. Deb Swift
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

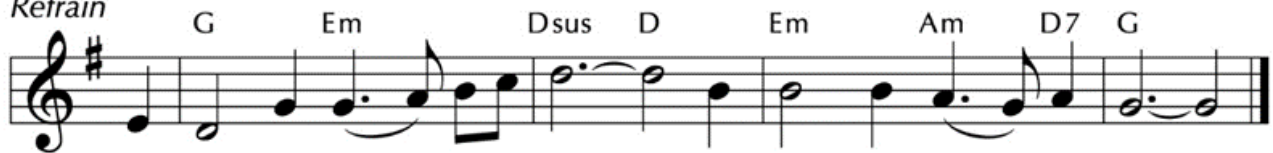


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain



477 Come and Find the Quiet Center

F Gm F Dm Bb C Bb F

1 Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we lead,
 2 Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
 3 In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain,

F Gm F Dm Bb C7 Bb F

find the room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are freed:
 God it is who speaks and names us, knows our be - ing, touch - es base,
 let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain:

F C Dm F Bb

clear the cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see
 mak - ing space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun,
 there's a place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care,

C Dm Bb F Gm Am Bb F

all the things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
 rais - ing cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
 in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D.

Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company.

Music Arr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn-ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care is available for young children beginning in the library and moving to C-23 on the second floor. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids if they would like.

Sunday School Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Our Youth" and then will follow their teacher to the Sunday School room.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online, you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

*** An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns – If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person (s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the Deacons.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist	Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator & Sunday School Teacher
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician	
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations	Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist
Alan Jones, Associate Musician	Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
David Mear, Business Manager	Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Moses Nhial, Maintenance	Ed Verna, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes, Nursery Coordinator	Lee S. Wright, D.M.A., Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Val Fowler, Moderator	Lea Kone	Jim Vesper
Nancy Brown	Bob Richane	Pat Tweet
John DeHority	Sally Allison	Mary Rees
	Sam King	

Deacons

Bob Carlisle	Jacque Hancock	Becky Parks
Andrea Folan	Elizabeth Katz	Susan Richane
Helen Ganotis	Stephen Lloyd	Kelley Sheils
Cindy Hamilton	Grania Marcus	Marilyn Terpening
	Sandy Morales	

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Telephone: (585) 325-4000

email: office@DowntownPresbyterian.org

www.DowntownPresbyterian.org





Today's special music program was made possible by generous donations to the Downtown Church Music Fund. In addition to our Advent music, donations to this fund support music on Easter and for our Jazz Worship in June. Thank you for your generous contributions throughout the year!



You are Cordially Invited to:

The Annual DUPC Advent Festival

Our 2025 Theme:

"A Star Shines Brightly!"

Sharing in the Light, Hope,
and Joy of the Season"

Sunday, December 7th

10AM—1PM

Before and After

Advent Music Sunday Worship

Follow the Crowds to the Hallway
Behind the Sanctuary



Sunday Forums - December 2025

Caring for Creation

Christmas with Less Consumerism

Dec. 14 “One World Goods: Supporting Artisans from Around the World”



Presenters: Pat Massa and others, One World Goods

When you buy gifts for your loved ones this year, shop at One World Goods rather than shopping online. Save the planet from packaging waste and energy consumption by taking a short trip to Pittsford Plaza, and purchasing hand-crafted items made by artisans who use natural and repurposed materials to support their families and communities. If possible you can then hand-deliver them. Our presenter will bring many beautiful items and tell us how they were made, and how their sale benefits the creators and their communities.

Dec. 21 “Five Years of Advent Celebration on Zoom: DUPC's Psalms+ Study Group”

Presenters: Panel of Group Members, In Person & Online

The Psalms+ Study Group, sometimes affectionately referred to as “Psalm Psisters+,” is a weekly Zoom meeting that was born during the Pandemic. Five years later the group is closing in on Psalm 150, having taken time out during Lent and Advent each year to explore the art, music, poetry, and scripture for those seasons. The group will present a PowerPoint describing the themes chosen for each year's Advent, and favorite images and music pieces shared by members. Panelists will reflect on how this unique companionship anchored them through the COVID years as well as holiday drama.

Sundays, 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room



**DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**