

---

# Marple Presbyterian Church

---

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

---



**“We love because He first loved us.”** 1 John 4:19

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
105 N. SPROUL ROAD | BROOMALL, PA 19008  
610-356-1098 | marplepc@gmail.com | www.marplepres.org

---

# Welcome

---

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

---



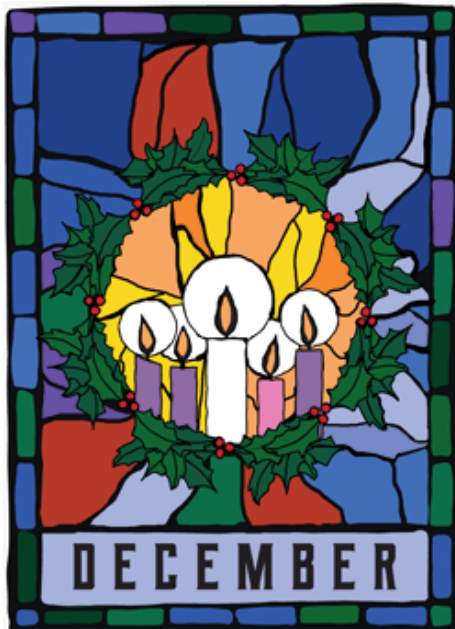
---

## Third Sunday of Advent

---

LITURGIST: Joanne Trumbetas

HEAD USHER: Tom Trumbetas



---

## New Here?

---

Welcome to Marple Presbyterian Church! We're so glad you came to worship with us and want to do all we can to help you feel at home.

- All visitors are encouraged to take the information brochure in the pew and place the visitor's section in the offering plate.
- Children are welcome in the service! Children's bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Nursery care is also available for children thru age 3. The nursery is located directly underneath the sanctuary.
- Assistive Listening Units are also available – please see any usher.

## RESOURCES

**Contact Us** | 610-356-1098

[marplepc@gmail.com](mailto:marplepc@gmail.com)

**Website** | [www.marplepres.org](http://www.marplepres.org)

[facebook.com/MarplePresbyterian](https://facebook.com/MarplePresbyterian)

## HOW DO I CONNECT?

Clerk of Session | [Kristen Mitchell](#)

Christian Education | [Ben Mitchell](#)

Deacons | [Linda Pursley & Joyce Holmwood](#)  
[marplepresdeacons@gmail.com](mailto:marplepresdeacons@gmail.com)

Fellowship | [Mack Smith](#)

Finance | [Kerri Robinson](#)

Membership Development | [Alfie Wilkes](#)

Mission | [Session Members](#)

Music | [Susan Greene](#)

Nursery | [Amy Eckels](#)

Personnel | [Ben Mitchell](#)

Property Management | [Paul Avazier](#)

Rentals | [Church Office](#)

Stewardship | [Joanne Trumbetas](#)

Treasurer | [Bill Brower](#)  
[marlepctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:marlepctreasurer@gmail.com)

Worship | [Amy Eckels](#)

Youth Group | [Ben Mitchell](#)

---

For more contact info, please contact the church office.

*Advent comes to us in the gray, bleak days of December when things get darker and darker and colder and shorter. It comes to us when, with the tinny, glitzy surroundings of our material pleasures and prosperities, we know in our inner heart of hearts that all that glitters is not gold. ... It is into such a season as this, against the tide, against the world, against the culture, against the fashion, that we Christians are invited to hope in the face of hopelessness. Advent is the season of hope: that the darkness will not cover the light, that the cold will not overwhelm the warmth, that hatred will not prevail over love, and that repression will not triumph over freedom.*

--Peter J. Gomes

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Prelude** | Susan B. Greene

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Opening Hymn** | Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus | #2

**\*Call to Worship** | Kim and Tyler Wertz

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord.

**People: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Leader: We light the Rose Candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in the days to come

The wilderness and the dry land will be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**People: Like the rose it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

(The lighting of the third Advent Candle)

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love. Amen.

**Choir Anthem** | *God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen* arr. Philip Kern

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

God of Hope, we confess that we take hesitant and faltering steps towards Bethlehem. We doubt the Good News of a great joy that you will visit us and redeem our lives. We waver in our acceptance of your promises because we are afraid of what our encounter with You might require of us. Forgiving God, grant us the courage to make our way to the stable to meet Emmanuel. Remove far from us our timidity and fear so that we may accept with joy the Good News of the birth of a Savior. Open us to the transforming love of Jesus Christ, that our every sin being put aside, we may receive the Christ Child with a pure heart. Amen.

*Moment for personal confession and reflection.*

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: These are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save us.

**People: He personally bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## Congregational Response *\*What Child Is This | #53`*

*Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

## Passing of the Peace

## Time with Children

\*Hymn | *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* | #48

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture Lessons**

Isaiah 12:2-6

Old Testament pg. 603

Luke 1:39-45

New Testament pg. 53

**Sermon** | The Support Group | Pastor Jim Reisner

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Public Welcoming of New Members**

Rita Haney

Diana Hexter

Debbie Pettinelli

### **\*Affirmation of Faith** | A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

## Sharing Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People

#### 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.

#### Invitation to the Offering

#### Offertory

**Congregational Response** *\*O Come, All Ye Faithful | #41*  
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth. You are the hope of the afflicted, the giver of justice, and the friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts, and all the ways we seek to serve you, to further Your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

**\*Closing Hymn | Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers | #15**

#### Charge and Benediction

**Postlude | Susan B. Greene**

---

## This Week

---

### MONDAY

Cub Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

### TUESDAY

Thrift Shop 10 am-3 pm

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

[zoom.us/j/6103561098](https://zoom.us/j/6103561098) PW MPC

### WEDNESDAY

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

[zoom.us/j/6103561098](https://zoom.us/j/6103561098) PW MPC

Boy Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 7-8 pm

Session Meeting 7 pm

### SATURDAY

Thrift Shop 10 am-4 pm

### SUNDAY

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 8-9 am

---

## Looking Ahead

---

### DECEMBER 21

Longest Night Service 7 pm

### DECEMBER 22

Deadline to return Angel Tree Gifts

### DECEMBER 23

Thrift Shop Open 10 am-3 pm

### DECEMBER 24

Thrift Shop Closed

Christmas Eve Family Friendly Service 6 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9 pm

---

## Learn More

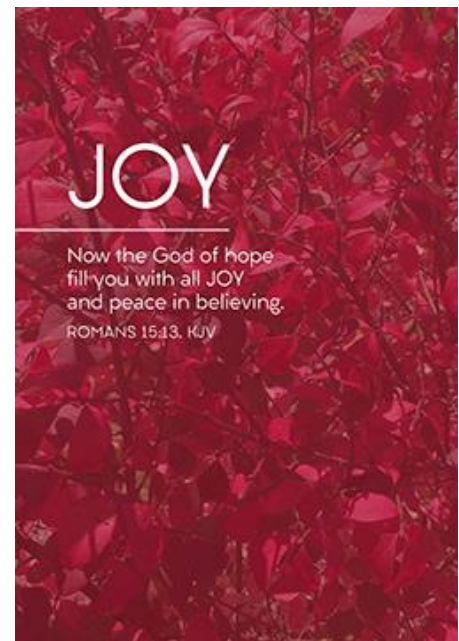
---



**Sunday School** - MPC Sunday School is open to children ages 3 and up and runs weekly during the 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service.



Youth Group is open to all youth from 6th to 12th grade and meets twice a month between October and May. Please see the full Youth Group calendar for meeting dates, special events, and retreats. Contact the Youth Group Leaders at [youthgroup@marplepres.org](mailto:youthgroup@marplepres.org) for additional information.





## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The celebration of Christmas goes beyond the festive decorations, the exchange of gifts, and the joyful gatherings. It is a time to grow closer to Christ through stewardship. By acknowledging that everything we have is a divine gift, and by living it out in our daily lives, we not only honor the birth of Christ but also embody His teachings. In doing so, we draw closer to the heart of Jesus and contribute to a more meaningful and spiritually enriched Christmas celebration. Let us remember that Christmas is a season for stewardship and a time to reflect, give thanks, and give back in honor of the true gift — the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



### Angel Tree

Marion Brower is spearheading this important collection campaign.

Please pick up an angel tree tag, if you haven't already done so.

Deadline to return gifts is Sunday, Dec. 22.

Please return your unwrapped gift with the tag along with gift bag and tissue or wrapping paper.





**Please fill out this form and return to the church office with your payment, no later than Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to place a poinsettia in the Church Sanctuary for Christmas. Poinsettias may be taken home at the conclusion of the Candlelight Service on December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

*\*\*Names will appear in the bulletin exactly as printed below.\*\**

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8/plant      Paid via:  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

*FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE*

*December 24 at 6 PM*

*TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE*

*December 24 at 9 PM*

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
105 N SPROUL ROAD  
MARPLEPC@GMAIL.COM



Our Thrift Shop is open:

**Tuesdays from 10 am – 3 pm**

**Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm**

Please come by to shop the new arrivals.

We are thankful for Amy and her team of faithful volunteers. We are always grateful for any help. It is a great way to volunteer at MPC.

During this time of pastoral transition please be aware that the Deacons will be available for addressing and communicating any pastoral needs.

You can email or text/call:

Joyce Holmwood

[jholmwood433@comcast.net](mailto:jholmwood433@comcast.net)

610-888-7458

OR

Linda Pursley

[lpursley1981@gmail.com](mailto:lpursley1981@gmail.com)

631 942- 5758

or any Deacon listed in the bulletin.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Listening devices are available for individuals who have a hearing impairment. Please speak to an usher for more information or to request a device.



---

**SESSION****DEACONS**

<i>Paul Avazier '26</i>	<i>Douglas Ballard '25</i>
<i>Amy Eckels '25</i>	<i>Marion Brower '24</i>
<i>Ben Mitchell '24</i>	<i>Bette Downs '24</i>
<i>Kristen Mitchell, Clerk</i>	<i>Virginia Geisbert '25</i>
<i>Carol Robinson '24</i>	<i>Patricia Gwartz '26</i>
<i>Kerri Robinson '26</i>	<i>Joyce Holmwood '26</i>
<i>Mack Smith '24</i>	<i>Greg Hoffman '24</i>
<i>Joanne Trumbetas '25</i>	<i>Eileen Matthews '24</i>
<i>Alfie Wilkes '25</i>	<i>Linda Pursley '24</i>
	<i>Diane Valaitis '26</i>
	<i>Shirley Wise '26</i>
	<i>Kim Wooden '25</i>

---