

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

Scripture Reading	Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 (CEB)	
Anthem	“Tidings of Great Joy”	by Evelyn Larter
Sermon	“When The Time Had Come”	Luke 2: 22-40 (CEB)
Carol of Resistance	“Do You Hear What I Hear?”	by Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne
Benediction		
Handbell Benediction		
Postlude	“Hallelujah Joy”	arr. Mark Hayes
Sending		

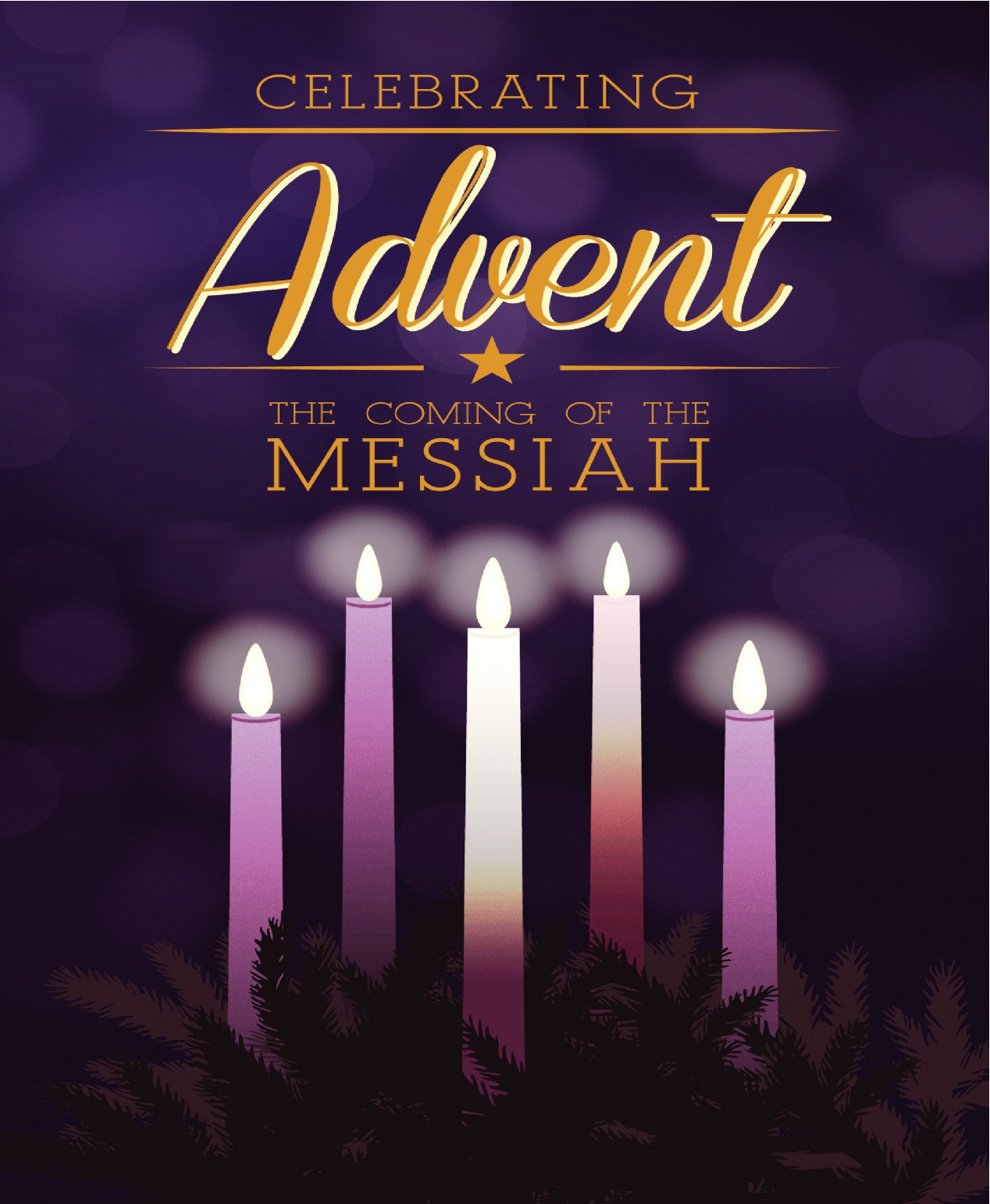
**Worship Participants**

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart,  
Heather Perryman, Jackson Weller, Ray Beale, C. B. Strange

*The flowers today are given in memory of our  
beloved Marie Louise Crane  
by the Handbell Choir, the Chancel Choir, and her church sisters.*

**Announcements**

The church office will be closed December 28th, 29th and January 4th.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—DANVILLE

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

### Call to Worship

**Prelude**                      “*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*”                      arr. E. T. Rogers

### Crossing the Threshold and Lighting of the Advent Candle

Holy One,  
we thank you for the glimpses we have caught  
throughout this season of Advent and Christmas  
of your gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace.

Even in the midst of fear,  
of challenge, of struggle—  
even when we have not been sure of tomorrow,  
you have ignited the Light within us,

**People:** ... and we have glowed 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.

### A Time for Reflection

This is the day we are reminded that God loves to be with us. Yet all too often – by our choices, our words, our silence – we choose not to be with Go. Join me as we pray to the One who was born to gift us with mercy and hope.

This was going to be the year, God of silent nights, when we were going to give away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but we filled our calendars with meetings. This was going to be the Christmas when we wrote personal letters to friends and family, but spent too much energy filling out our to-do lists. This was going to be a truly holy season, but it just got too harried and hurried.

Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the Baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty and weakness; to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all; to the Child who gathers other children to him, to bless them and serve them; to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart – Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord.

### Assurance of Pardon

L: Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life; into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light; into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

**P: Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings joy and peace to us in these moments of forgiveness and in all the days to come.  
Amen.**

### Children's Time to Shine

Jackson Weller

### 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

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