



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

**Bold text is read
by the congregation.**

***Asterisk indicates when to
rise in body or in spirit.**

**Please sign the friendship pad
so we may take note of your
presence and you may greet
your neighbors by name.**



Advent Liturgists

8:30 - Halle & Danny Gross
11:00 - Stephanie & Thad Rodda



Hymn No. 104: *Though many
Advent hymns address Christ
with entreaty and invitation,
this more contemplative text
considers how an individual
prepares for and responds to
Christ's coming. It also brings
together a recollection of the
First Coming with an
anticipation of the Second
Coming.*

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
(8:30) ARR. PHILIP KEVEREN (11:00) ARR. JUDITH YORK

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

The Lord calls each of us by name.

We are known, we are loved, we are sent.

With trembling hearts and open hands,

We say, "Here I am, Lord."

Come, let us worship the God who gives us courage
to hope and to rejoice.

**Our souls magnify the Lord,
and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

Today we light the candle of Joy,
remembering Mary's brave song
and the promise that joy can still be born in us.

**We light this candle as a sign of joy that defies fear
because God's promise still takes on flesh.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 104

O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.



***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

THE REVEREND MARY NEWBERG GALE

God who calls and sends,
we confess that we are slow to trust your voice.

You call us to bear good news,
but we cling to our own comfort.

You promise to be with us,
yet we fear what you may ask of us.

Forgive us, O God.

Give us the courage of Mary and the trust of Jeremiah,
that we may answer your call with hope and joy.

(Silent Confession)



***RESPONSE NO. 95**

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

PREPARE THE WAY

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,

and all people will see the salvation of our God.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

REV. GALE



***RESPONSE NO. 581**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

GLORIA PATRI

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE (8:30)**

REV. GALE

(11:00)

ELLEN GILLESS

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.



As children come forward during the gathering hymn, you are invited to pass your quarters to the center aisle the children to collect for their offering. Quarters are sent to the Dougbe Presbyterian River School in Liberia.

HYMN OF GATHERING NO. 401 (11:00)

GATHER US IN

HERE IN THIS PLACE



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.



At this time, three-year-olds to kindergarteners are welcome to proceed to Worship and Wonder with an adult.

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH (11:00)

WHITNEY GETMAN

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

THE REVEREND DAVID J. POWERS

SHARING THE LIFE AND MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

REV. POWERS



Found on page 698 of the Old Testament and 56 of the New Testament in your pew Bible.



Today's Affirmation of Faith is from The Iona Community Creed.



PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

REV. POWERS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON JEREMIAH 1:4-10

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON LUKE 1:26-39

SERMON INSISTING ON HOPE - COURAGEOUS JOY

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (8:30)
(11:00)

REV. GALE
JASON HOOD

We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;

**in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,**

conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

**We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.**

We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond a safe place:
into action, into vulnerability,
and onto the streets.

**We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully,
and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope.**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE (11:00)

REV. GALE

THE LORD'S PRAYER



During this time, we invite you to continue your support of the church and her mission. Online giving is available through Realm or through the mail. Those in the sanctuary may place their offering in the plate as it is passed.



Hymn No. 840: This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES (8:30)
(11:00)

REV. GALE
JASON HOOD

OFFERTORY (8:30)
(11:00)

*IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD*
THE CHANCEL CHOIR

ARR. DAVID/SANBORN
GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

***RESPONSE**

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise Christ all crea - tures
here be - low Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise
Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more Praise Tri - une God whom we a -
dore Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (8:30)
(11:00)

REV. GALE
JASON HOOD

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (8:30)

REV. POWERS AND REV. GALE

SEND IN GOD'S SPIRIT

***HYMN OF SENDING No. 840**

VILLE DU HAVRE

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (11:00)

REV. POWERS

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

REV. POWERS

POSTLUDE

FANTASIA ON 'GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN'

BARRY HOLBEN

840 When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

it is well; it is well with my soul.

WELCOME NOTICES

Welcome to Idlewild! We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to Idlewild, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At Idlewild, it is our hope that all who enter find a home.

Children are always welcome in worship. In addition, childcare for children newborns—3 years is available in the Jones Building in Room 153. Children of all ages are invited to pick up a worship packet in the main hallway that can be utilized to enhance their worship experience. During the sanctuary service there is a special *Time with the Younger Church*. After, children ages 3 years—kindergarten may go to *Worship and Wonder* on the third floor of the Jones building.  **If you would like your child to attend *Worship and Wonder*, registration is required** once each semester by scanning the QR code. Parents pick-up children from *Worship and Wonder* following the conclusion of worship.

New members are received by the Session. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Idlewild family. Connect with a Pastor after worship.

Prayer requests are prayed daily by the Community Prayer Ministry Team and the Confidential Prayer Partners. If your prayers are confidential, you may call (901-487-6062) or submit them by email to confidentialprayers@idlewildchurch.org. Otherwise, you can fill out a Community Prayer Request card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or submit them by email to communityprayer@idlewildchurch.org.

If you have a hospitalization, or pastoral care need, please call or text (901) 654-6872. The Pastor on Call will respond as soon as possible. You can also email pastor@idlewildchurch.org.

WORSHIP NOTICES

The bulletin art is *Mary's Yes* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, and inspired by Luke 1:26-39. Artist statement:

In this image, we see the angel greeting Mary in the form of dappled light. Mary's back is turned to the angel, but we see her in the process of pivoting toward the warmth of the cascading light. I imagine this is the moment after the angel responds to her initial question, "How can this be?" After hearing the angel's response, Mary closes her eyes, imagining her cousin Elizabeth and perhaps her many ancestors holding her up as she prepares to step forward. The wrap around her head carries the angel's good news, anointing her with the promise that fear won't stop her. Embroidered along her neckline is Mary's willing response: "Here I am." Her lantern earring is a sign to each of us, to anyone who is fearful. It's as if Mary herself becomes a lantern, emanating courage in the face of a fearful calling, lighting a way forward.

John Sanborn is the cantor in today's Chapel service, and Chris Nemeč is the accompanist and duo-pianist in the Sanctuary service.

Gaudete Sunday shines into Advent with joy and a brief shift in liturgical color. Our growing Advent wreath is festooned with pink roses today and a rose candle is lit in joyful anticipation of Christ's coming. "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in the Lord always)

Sanctuary flowers are given in honor, celebration, or in appreciation of those we love. We appreciate your generosity in providing flowers to adorn our sanctuary for Sunday services. If you are interested in donating, find the registration page at idlewildchurch.org/flower-dedication.

The 11:00 service is live at youtube.com/@idlewild.church/streams. As always, worship is available by way of the radio on AM560, 96.1FM, or 98.5FM. **Music is printed** under Onelicense.net **A-702280**.

◆ *this week in print* ◆

Fellowship & Recreation

Waffle Sunday (December 21, 9:30 am): Join us next Sunday for a waffle breakfast during the Sunday School hour. We'll have a story-time for the kids and enjoy fellowship with our church family ahead of Christmas! Most Sunday School classes will be on sabbath for the breakfast. We hope to see you there!

Adult Ministry

New Sunday School Offering - Disciples Bible Study Class: This winter and spring, we will study the New Testament. Come to the organizational meeting of this class during the Sunday School hour on January 4th in Room 305 to learn more. Anna Witte will serve as the class facilitator. For more information, reach out to Anna Witte or David Zanca.

Labyrinth Walk & SoulCollage Workshop (Saturday December 20): Both walking a labyrinth and creating and journaling with SoulCollage® cards are tools for meditative prayer. During this experiential mini workshop, led by Anne Bradley Thomas, you will experience a labyrinth walk, a quick overview of the SoulCollage® process, the opportunity to make one card, and a time for reflective journaling. SoulCollage® is a gentle, intuitive, and creative process and a powerful tool for ongoing self-reflection, self-awareness, and accessing your intuitive wisdom. The Labyrinth will be available for use from 9 - 12, and the workshop begins at 12:30.

Fellowship and Recreation

Open Mahjong Play: Sign up at idlewildchurch.org/fellowship-and-recreation.

Music Ministry

Festival of Christmas Concert - Our third annual Christmas concert will be TONIGHT at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Join us for a festive holiday celebration, featuring the Idlewild Chancel Choir & Festival Orchestra.

Youth Ministry

TONIGHT - Middle School Christmas Party! at the Hensons' home. Join us for Christmas Games, Food, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange!

Christmas Eve Youth-Led Service (December 24, 11 pm in the Chapel): Sign up to participate in the Youth-Led Christmas Eve Service at the link below or contact Sage or Jacque with questions.

JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE

3 pm - Worship Service, Sanctuary - Our children will tell and act out the nativity story while the congregation joins in singing classic Christmas hymns.

5:30 pm - Lessons and Carols Service, Sanctuary - The Sanctuary is alight with candles and joyful music for the traditional Lessons and Carols. The service includes beloved Christmas carols and traditional Bible lessons.

11 pm - Worship Service, Chapel - Music, readings, and celebration of the Lord's Supper lead to the joyous lighting of candles. This festive chapel service is led by clergy and our middle and high schoolers.



Registrations, sign-ups, and other relevant links:
www.idlewildchurch.org/calendar.

A Vision of Idlewild

Idlewild Presbyterian Church is a community in which ...

Jesus Christ is the center,
the mighty voice of God inspires us to love;
the Spirit joyfully sustains and nurtures seekers of every age,
stage, and circumstance.

Worship forms the core of community life;
prayer binds our brokenness and connects us in Christ's love
to God and to one another;
music, poetry, and art flourish in gratitude to our Creator;
the beauty of creation is treasured and preserved;
"The members of the church are ministers.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD



us is scripture and its meaning for today;
is formed and spirits nourished through reflection,
ice and shared learning;
wisdom of other faith traditions is respected;
a diverse membership enriches and unites us.

speaks loudly and peace is our aspiration;
J all voices are heard;
recreation and play are a wellspring for fellowship,
celebration, and growth;
the love of God guides our minds and spirits,
leading us to right action in our hearts, our homes,
our community, our nation, and our world,

And all who enter find a home.

