



**Poland Presbyterian Church, founded May 3, 1802**

First Sunday in Advent – November 26, 2023, 10:30 AM

***The Hanging of the Greens ~ Worship Service***

Meditation before Worship

O God, to turn from you is to fail, to turn to you is to rise, and to abide in you is to stand fast forever.  
– St. Augustine

Prelude “Selections” String Duo

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle Wendy Banko and Maleri Noble

Introit “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arr. Polly Bekasova”

\* Call to Worship (responsive) Jeanne Rostan

This day, in warmth, reverence and wonder, we adorn our Sanctuary for the coming of the King of kings,  
Lord of lords, Prince of Peace! Let us prepare Him room!

**We prepare for the King with branches of cedar, the tree of royalty!**

We prepare for the eternal Christ with garlands whose leaves are ever living, evergreen!

**We prepare for the Savior with holly and ivy, telling of His passion, death, and resurrection!**

We prepare for the Son of God with the prophets’ message, announcing the saving work of God!

**God sent the Son into the world that the world through Him might be saved!**

Let us worship God!

\* Hymn #105, verses 1-4 “People, Look East” *BESANCON*

\*Prayer of Confession and silent Confession (unison)

**O God, You have promised us strength for our daily needs, yet we continue to worry. You have promised us light to live by, yet we stumble around in the darkness. You have promised us forgiveness for our sins, yet we cannot let go of our guilt. Help us to put our full trust in You and live completely in the knowledge of Your love...**

\* The Good News of God's Grace

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel!

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

\*The Gloria Patri

Sacrament of Baptism

Winifred Mae Beauchamp

Daughter of Ian & Danielle (Beaumier) Beauchamp

Born on May 15, 2023

\* Greetings in Christian Friendship

Anthem

“Jesus Comes”

Sally Morris

Prayer of Illumination

O God, Bless the reading of Your word, may it touch our hearts so that we may know that with You in our lives all things are possible. Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 35:1-2; 11:6

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. This is God's Word, Amen.

New Testament Lesson: John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Homily

“Decorating our Hearts”

Dr. Paul W Anderson

The Evergreen ~ Placing of Garlands of Evergreen (wreath)

Erika Carcelli

Hymn - 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (*seated*)

*HYFRYDOL*

The Poinsettia ~ Placing of Poinsettia

Lindsay Anderson

Hymn - 93 (verse 1)

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (*seated*)

*TRURO*

The Christmas Tree ~ Presenting the Christmas Tree

Karen Sutton

Offering

Offertory

“Waiting For Bethlehem's Light”

Dale Peterson

Prayer of Dedication

\*Doxology

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

The Chrismons ~ Decorating the Christmas Tree with Chrismons

Linda DeLost

The Lights ~ Lighting the Tree

Nan Bennett

\* Hymn #362

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Believers”

LLANGLOFFAN

\* Benediction

\*Postlude

“Wachet Auf”

J.S. Bach

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\* Please stand for those able

*The flowers gracing the sanctuary are given to the glory of God, in honor of Robalee Dinopolous' birthday, by her children, Jocelyne, Larry, Marc and Bruce.*

*The flowers gracing the sanctuary are given to the glory of God, for all our blessings, the greatest being our grandchildren, by Sheila & Frank Wadlinger.*

Please welcome Bz Volchko as our new Audio-Visual Technician.

Thank you to Jeanne Rostan for being today's Liturgist and to Jared Carcelli & Joann Pavlock for being our greeters for today's worship service.

#### **Church Staff**

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Anderson, Pastor/Head of Staff  
Rev. Stacie Maynard, Parish Associate  
Erika Carcelli, Christian Education Director  
Marissa Baker, Office Services  
Tammy Creighton, Media Specialist

Justin Addicott, Choir Director  
Kristy Addicott, Organist  
Anthony Brucoli, Property Manager  
Carly Carcelli, Director of Nursery  
Bz Volchko, Audio Visual Technician

#### ***December Greeters***

December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Audrey McKinney and Diane Gesacion  
December 10<sup>th</sup> - Linda and Dave Watts  
December 17<sup>th</sup> - Stacy Rutana and Sue Bunish  
December 24<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 pm- Jack Maxwell  
7:00 pm-Sue Perry and Tricia Perry

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