

**December 27, 2020**

**10:00 a.m.**



## **Hartwood Presbyterian Church**

Our mission is to develop disciples by  
providing worship, fellowship and service  
through Jesus Christ.

**Pastor: Reverend Doctor Scott Fouts**

**Music Director: Lara Brittain**

# December 27, 2020 / 10:00 AM

## The People Gather

### Call to Worship (responsive)

Psalm 52: 8-9

Pastor: But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.

**People: I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever.**

Pastor: I will give You thanks forever, because You have done it,

**People: And I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presences of Your godly ones.**

### Prayer of Adoration (unison)

**Eternal God, by the radiance of the star rising in splendor You led the Magi to worship, Baby Jesus, the newborn King. Let His brightness light our lives that we too may worship Him. May Your light shine in the darkness our lives and use us to fill our world with Your Glory. Amen.**

### The Opening Hymn #21 “All My Heart Today Rejoices” (*blue hymnal*)

## We Humble Ourselves in Confession

### A Call to Confession

Matthew 3: 1

In those days, John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, because the kingdom of Heaven has come near!”

### Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of Grace and Truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the Light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

### The Assurance of Pardon

Luke 2: 11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

### Hymn #36 “In the Bleak Midwinter” (*blue hymnal*)

## We Listen for God’s Word

### First Reading:

Isaiah 7: 10-16

The Immanuel Prophecy. Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz: “Ask for a sign from the LORD your God - it can be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.” But Ahaz replied, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.” Isaiah said, “Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men?”

\*If you are able, please stand. / **Bold = people participate**

Will you also try the patience of my God? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel. By the time he learns to reject what is bad and choose what is good, he will be eating curds and honey. For before the boy knows to reject what is bad and choose what is good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned.

**Hymn #46 “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”** (*blue hymnal*)

Second Reading:

Isaiah 9: 1-7

Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future he will bring honor to the way of the sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness. You have enlarged the nation and increased its joy. The people have rejoiced before you as they rejoice at harvest time and as they rejoice when dividing spoils. For you have shattered their oppressive yoke and the rod on their shoulders, the staff of their oppressor, just as you did on the day of Midian. For every trampling boot of battle and the bloodied garments of war will be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

**Hymn #3 “Comfort, Comfort You My People”** (*blue hymnal*)

Third Reading:

Micah 5: 2-5

Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times. Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of the ruler's brothers will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD his God. They will live securely, for then his greatness will extend to the ends of the earth. He will be their peace.

**Hymn #308 “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”** (*blue hymnal*)

Fourth Reading:

Matthew 1: 18-25

The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged<sup>[a]</sup> to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord’s angel had commanded him. He married her but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

**Hymn #24 “Away in a Manger”** (*blue hymnal*)

Fifth Reading:

Luke 2: 1-20 (*see insert*)

**A Season of Prayer**

The Pastoral Prayer

Our Silent and Personal Prayers

**The Lord’s Prayer (unison)**

**\*Affirmation of Faith (unison)** (*see insert*)

“The Session would like to remind you that despite the Corona Virus crisis shut downs the church still has financial obligations. You may continue to give by mailing contributions to the Church Office; giving electronically through Realm; or making bulk donations from investments.”

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

With grateful hearts, O Lord, we come to You, bearing our gifts as pledges of our service to Your Holy Kingdom. Let the offering we make be also an offering of ourselves to Your Holy Will. Amen.

**Closing Hymn #29 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”** (*blue hymnal*)

Church Office Information

Hours: Monday - Wednesday: 12:00 -3:00, Thursday: 9:00 am- 3:00 pm

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