**We Gather to Worship the One Who Is Coming**

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING VIDEO** – The Assistance Program

**PRELUDE**  “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”  Hugo Gehrke

**INTROIT & POURING BAPTISMAL WATER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**
...For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.
Let us worship God.

**HYMN**  “Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending”  ODE TO JOY

+Those who are able may stand.  Please see announcements insert.

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING THE 2nd ADVENT CANDLE** – JOY  Patty Kloidt and Colette Gilligan

**UNISON PRAYER**

Dear God, help us to get ready for your arrival. Show us the path toward you, that healing and wholeness can come in our lives and in our world. We offer you our lives in joyous thanksgiving for the love and forgiveness and strength that you so generously give us each day. Amen.

You are invited to bring forward your offering of joy for the Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (together)

Holy God, you have sent to us the one true Messiah, whose ways are grace and truth.
Be persistent in your mercy toward us.
We are slow to learn and hard of heart, satisfied with superficial pleasures, and treasuring counterfeit values.
We are easily led astray by the pretenders of our age who offer the quick fix instead of the way of the cross, a message tailored to what is popular, rather than true.
Turn us from the wrong that we habitually choose.
Help us turn toward you, receive the truth, and know the mercy, peace and deep joy of your healing grace.
In the name of Christ Jesus our Redeemer we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

+A DOXOLOGY  (to the tune GLORIA)

Joyfully to God we sing, to the Son let praises ring,
To the Holy Spirit raise this our song of grateful praise:
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

**THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**LESSONS FROM SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 35:1-10  – A vision of the return to Zion
Canticle Hymn #600  “Magnificat”
James 5:7-10  – Be patient as you await the coming of the Lord.
TOLD BY PETER MASSI

**ANTHEM**  “In Joy We Wait, Emmanuel”  Douglas E. Wagner

Matthew 11:2-11  – John the Baptist wonders if Jesus is the coming one.

**CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN**

**SERMON**  Patience my ***

**WE RESPOND IN FAITH WITH THANKSGIVING**

+HYMN #495  “We Know That Christ Is Raised”  ENGELBERG
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  (based on John 1)

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 were made through him, and without him nothing was made. What was made in him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not been able to overcome it. The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own home, and his own people did not receive him. But to those who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory, glory as from the only Son of the Father.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD'S PRAYER & CHORAL RESPONSE

“debts/debtors”  (Traditional, Hymnal, p. 16)

OFFERTORY  “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice”  J. S. Bach

+A DOXOLOGY  (to the tune GLORIA)

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To the Holy Spirit raise this our song of grateful praise:
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

+PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We Go Out in the Joy of Emmanuel

+HYMN #15  “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”  to LANCASTER

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE

+POSTLUDE
1. Jesus comes with clouds descending, Lamb of God for sinners slain! 
Thousands of the saints attending join to sing this glad refrain: 
Alleluia! Alleluia! to the— Lord who comes again! 
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign!

2. Yes! Amen! Let all adore you, seated on your gracious throne; 
Crowns and rulers bow before you, worship you as Lord alone. 
Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus, let your— grace and pow'r be shown! 
Come, Lord Jesus, come to help us; come to heal and save your own!

3. We who saw you crucified and lifted up upon the tree 
Now with our own eyes behold you, robed in awesome majesty, 
There upon the clouds of— heaven we our— true Messiah see, 
Bringing justice, peace and mercy, joy in setting captives free!

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**T H E   C A L E N D A R**

- **Monday:** 6 p.m. - Session meeting – Stieffvater’s home
- **Wednesday:** 8:30 a.m. - CAM meeting – Lutheran Home
- **Thursday:** 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. - Fair Trade Shoppe
- **Saturday:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Fair Trade Shoppe
- **Sunday:**
  - 9 a.m. - Choir rehearsal
  - 10:30 a.m. - Worship with Elizabeth Smith

**GREETERS & HOSTS:** Brook Villiere and Bev Miller

**YOUR PLEDGE ENVELOPES** for 2017 are available in the back of the sanctuary.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please go to our website www.stonepres.org and click on “Prayer Request” or call the church office at 853-2933.

Ewa Lawrence
Doris Locke
Susanne Deborah Henderson Stickles’ Family
Judy Raney
Moore family
Lynn
Joann
Rev. Reggie Villalobos
John Pratt
Cheryl (Scott’s nephew’s mother-in-law)
Florence Morgan
Family of Shirley Sollinger
Esther Kanipe
Family of Keith Dewey
Carolyn Barnum
Debra LaFont
Refugees

Members/Friends of the Week:
- Lori Chamberlain, Celese Clawson
- Danuta and Boleslaw (Ewa’s parents)
- Courtney Brichter Gus and family
- Carole Grove
- Chris Woods and his family
- Family of Gil Palmer
- Family of Robert Grozl
- Jeff Hale and family
- Family of Kelly Connors-Sugarman
- Family of Wilma Lawson
- Family of Laurarace Eisenhower
- Susanne Max (Emily Hughes’ sister)
- Shirley & JoAnn Tolbert
- Family of Sue Bishop
- Family & friends of Carol Gilley
- Prayer of thanks for volunteers

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** for our homebound members and friends are on a table in the back of the sanctuary. Please sign them.

**HOPE HOUSE’S WISH LIST:** This month’s wish list includes the following:
- Food - breakfast cereal, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate, butter or margarine; Toiletries - deodorant, shampoo, conditioner; Paper Goods - napkins, toilet paper. Please leave items in the narthex.

**Christmas Cards**

- Refugees

**WELCOME** to the worship of God at Stone Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the Presbytery of Utica.

**CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?**

- For the past several weeks we’ve been experimenting with a couple of different sound systems graciously loaned to us and installed by the Rev. Ed Townsend from Three Steeple Church. The feedback (pun intended) has been unanimous that both of them are better than what we had and the first one with the wired microphones was a little better than.
- With the hands-free microphones. On Saturday November 12 John Pulio from Professional Technologies in Rome came and assessed our situation. The conclusion was simply to replace two of our existing speakers on the walls of the sanctuary with a pair of new column speakers that shape the sound plus add an automatic audio processor to handle feedback. That should solve 80-90% of our problem. After we see how well that works we explore if we need to replace other elements, like the microphones. The equipment is being ordered and will be installed in December sometime before Christmas Eve. Until then we’ll continue to borrow Ed’s equipment.

**THE COUNTRY PANTRY** would appreciate donations of canned fruit, tuna, chili, soup, and peanut butter. Please leave items in the back of the sanctuary. Please note that loose change collected in worship on the third Sundays of each month (NOTE: THAT’S NEXT SUNDAY!) is sent to the Country Pantry. Questions? See Judy LaGasse.

**Saturday, December 24, 2016, 7:00 p.m. – CHRISTMAS EVE**

The story, the music, the joy: This is the Christmas Eve Service that celebrates the Christ Child, the coming of the Light of the World. Invite a friend to join us for the wonder of this worship.

**Sunday, December 25, 2016, 10:30 a.m. – CHRISTMAS DAY** (Communion)

We worship with lessons and carols and an intimate experience of the Lord’s Supper to celebrate the birth of the Savior of the world.

Today is the **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**. We have lighted the candles of Hope and Peace. This week we light the candle of Joy. Our special collection will be donated to the Presbyterian Church’s Christmas Joy offering. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor the gift of Christ’s birth by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Your generosity in support of the Christmas Joy offering is appreciated. Thank you.

**HOPE HOUSE** in Utica will be holding an Open House at their proposed new facility at 112 South Street, Utica, on Friday, December 16th at 12 Noon. A light lunch will be served. Anyone who is interested in having a tour of the new facility is welcome to attend. This is exciting news for volunteers and everyone else who is involved in the Hope House mission. Questions, contact Ceil Gilbert at 853-8289.

WE HAVE A NEW FAMILY! Look for tree ornaments with the needs and wants of our Christmas family. This year we are adopting one small family from the Neighborhood Center. **This is Stone Church’s 31st year of adopting families through the Neighborhood Center!** Please return gifts - unwrapped, but with tags attached - by Sunday, December 18. Be sure to join us that morning after worship for the wrapping party. Questions? See Donna Goodfriend.

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