



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

***Call to Worship**

Worship Leader

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: Lift every valley, lift every voice.

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Love”

The Brodersen Family

Reader: We watch and wait for Christ’s coming! We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. *[Light the first candle].*

We light this candle for peace. *[Light the second candle.]*

We light this candle in joy! *[Light the third (pink) candle.]*

We light this candle with love. *[Light the fourth candle.]*

Hear the Word of the Lord: The Lord your God will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

Let us pray:

People: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Amen.

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Gathering Prayer

Kathalee Caissie

*please stand

Word

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Christmas Cantata

“CHRISTMAS ... The Story of His Love”

Prayers and Offering

Prayers of the People/The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Charge and Blessing

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

Class of 2028 Session Members - The following members were elected to the Class of 2028 Session: Mike Brodersen, Kathy Foresi, and Lois Morse. Michael Eicholtz is fulfilling a term vacated in the class of 2026. Installation and ordination of these members will take place on Sunday, January 4, 2026, during worship.

2026 Nominating Committee - The following members have been selected to the 2026 Nominating Committee: Kathalee Caissie, David Christian, Michael Eicholtz, Teresa Greenawalt, and Larry Hadrava.

Christmas Cantata December 21 - Today, during worship, the choir will perform songs from “CHRISTMAS ... The Story of His Love.”

Christmas Joy Offering December 21 - The Christmas Joy offering assists current and retired church workers and their families in need, and it develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools, equipping communities of color. To donate to this offering, use the Christmas Joy offering envelope in the friendship pads or use the Special Offering block in the online giving portal. Today is the last day to donate to this offering.

Presbyterian Women’s Christmas Party December 21 - Today at 11:30 a.m., the women will meet at the home of Lisa Christian, 3486 Worthington Oaks Drive, Orange Park, FL 32065. Please bring a gift valued at \$20.00 for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. There is a sign-up sheet on a clipboard in the Narthex.

If you joined in the Secret Sister Fun, bring your Secret Sister her Christmas gift. We will then have our Secret Sister reveal. We will also have a Secret Sister sign-up sheet for 2026!

Men’s Holiday Gathering December 21 - The men will meet today at 11:30 a.m. at Gator Dockside for the Men’s Holiday Gathering. If you have not yet contacted Shawn Brecht about attending and wish to do so, please contact him at 904.718.3128.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 - Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 p.m. this Wednesday, December 24.

Holiday Office Hours - The church office will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, December 24 - 25, and Thursday, January 1.

November 2025 Pledges

Actual Received \$11,324.22
Amount Pledged \$ 6,428.00
Difference +\$ 4,896.22
Many thanks to those who helped
make November an awesome month.

Financial Giving - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



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Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
Phone: 904.777.0006 | website: www.kirkwoodchurch.org
Dr. Yvan Kelly | E-mail: ykelly@bellsouth.net