



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Communion Sunday and 2nd Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #145

“What Child Is This”

***Call to Worship** (based on Isaiah 11)

Worship Leader

Leader: A shoot shall come forth from Jesse’s stump,

People: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

Leader: He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

People: He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.

Leader: The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,

People: The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.

Leader: The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,

People: And a little child will lead them all.

Leader: They will neither hurt nor destroy on God’s holy mountain,

All: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Peace”

Paige Rhody and Kathy Foresi

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.]*

Hear Zechariah’s song of hope for peace to the Christ child in Luke 1:76-79:

“You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Let us pray:

People: God of hope, Prince of Peace, You speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may be called children of God. God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come. Amen.

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

*please stand

Gathering Prayer

Shawn Brecht

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world - not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully relying on your grace, we may know a restored relationship with you and with each other.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the good news:

People: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

Leader: Before we repent and change our ways, God's love has already claimed us as his own.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Word

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

Shawn Brecht

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

Dr. Yvan Kelly

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

“Clearing the Way”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Middle Hymn**

“Cannons”

The Lord’s Supper

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.

The Lord’s Supper

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: I give him my heart. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #115

“Away in a Manger”

Charge and Blessing

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

Angel Tree - Thank you to everyone who took a tag. The Angel Tree gifts will be picked up this Thursday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. Please be sure to have all gifts dropped off before then. You can coordinate with Shawn on dropping off during the week.

Guidelines for purchasing gifts:

- Do not wrap any gifts, but put them in a bag (store bag or trash bag) and attach the Angel Gift tag to the bag
- Do not include gift cards, candy, food, money, or used items.

Session Meeting, December 7 - The December Session meeting will be held today after worship at the home of Yvette Grant, 1461 Tomcat Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32221.

Bunko December 13 - The next Bunko night is scheduled for this Saturday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is required, and it is fun for all ages. A \$10.00 donation is asked for each person and includes dessert. All proceeds go to the church's building/grounds fund.

Congregational Meeting December 14 - There will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, December 14. The purpose is to elect new Session members and present next year's budget.

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.

Presbyterian Women's Christmas Party December 21 - On Sunday, December 21, 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 - Attention all Kirkwood Men: How would you like to go to lunch as a men's holiday gathering on December 21, while the ladies meet elsewhere and leave us to fend for lunch on our own? Contact Shawn at 904.718.3128 to confirm you'd like to eat. Was thinking of going to Gators so we don't miss any game day activities at the same time, and we all can enjoy each other's fellowship.

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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