

ANNOUNCEMENTS: WEEK OF DEC 12



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TODAY, 11:00 AM. Join us as Children's Chapel kids in PreK – 6th grades present this year's Christmas pageant, "The First Christmas." A special coffee & cookies fellowship time will be held in the Wing in the Woods for the congregation, immediately following worship, while the Sanctuary is set up for the program. We'll reconvene in the Sanctuary at 11:00am for their presentation.



ALPHA IS COMING Make plans to join our Alpha program on **Wednesdays starting January 5th!** We'll meet for dinner around 5:45 pm and end at 8 pm each week through March 9th. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of faith in an open and informal environment. EVERYONE is welcome, no matter where you are in your faith journey! Want to learn more? Plan to stay for a preview video right after worship on Dec. 19 or Jan. 2! Sign up on the entryway board or at www.polkcityumc.org/grow



CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING This year's Christmas offering will support the ministry of Hawthorn Hill in Des Moines. Hawthorn Hill provides shelter and services for nearly 130 homeless families with children every year through their New Directions Shelter, and supportive housing and job skills for over 40 families a year through their Home Connection program. Their mission is to help homeless families with children obtain permanent housing and achieve economic self-sufficiency. (*Designate "Christmas Mission" in your giving, Dec. 19 – 31*)



WELCOME GUESTS! If you are visiting, please stop by the Welcome table to fill out a Connect Card and pick up a Welcome Bag!

#LOVELIKEJESUS TUMBLERS can be purchased for \$10 at the Welcome Table (*each purchase covers the cost of a free tumbler for our guests*)



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONTACT US: Melody Webb, Pastor: melody.webb@polkcityumc.org or 314.630.0768
Lauren Wilken, Children & Youth Director: lauren.wilken@polkcityumc.org

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GATHERING SONG

“Heaven Everywhere”

WELCOME/CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship

Please record your presence in the Facebook comments or the website attendance card

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist:

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

People: It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

Leader: We could choose to ignore it.

People: We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

Leader: Instead, we come into this space.

People: We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

People: We hear it. In listening, we worship.

L: Let us draw near to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (vs. 1-3)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

CANDLE-LIGHTING CAROL

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 3)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Expansive God, we know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NRSV)

CHILDREN’S BELLS

Children age 3 & up invited to follow ministry leaders for children’s chapel; they return during closing song

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-18 (NRSV)

SONG OF REFLECTION

“All Who Are Thirsty”

SERMON

“A Home for All”

Pastor Melody Webb

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS & PRESENCE

Turn to a neighbor to share joys and concerns; submit prayer requests on the Connect Cards

Online prayer Requests can be submitted in the Facebook comments or the Attendance Card on our website

www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship

PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

Your gift in-person, by mail or mobile device, or online at www.polkcityumc.org/give supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church. Thank you for your extravagant generosity! Find this week’s announcements on the back side of the bulletin, or on our website at www.polkcityumc.org

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God who welcomes us home, who creates space, who leaves a chair with our name on it—we have two coats and we are giving one away. That’s what this offering is. It’s our second coat. It’s our hearts on our sleeves. It’s our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray, amen.

SONG OF SENDING

“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”

BENEDICTION

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Advent is about the joy of longing for home – the kind of home that will complete us, the kind of home that will transform the world. Worship with us this Advent and Christmas season.

- **Sunday Worship, Nov. 28 - Dec. 19, 9:30 AM** (*in person & online*)
- **Blue Christmas Worship: Dec. 21, 7:00 PM** (*in person & online*)
- **Christmas Eve Worship: Dec. 24, 7:00 PM** (*in person & online*)
- **Sunday after Christmas: Dec. 26, 9:30 AM** (**ONLINE ONLY**)