



## ANNOUNCEMENTS: WEEK OF DEC 19

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE TUESDAY, DEC 21, 7:00 PM.

Opportunity to name the loss and grief we may feel in the midst of a season of celebrations. Reflective carols, scriptures and candle-lighting. In person and online!

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP FRIDAY, DEC 24, 7:00 PM.

Come hear the scriptures, carols and special music that tells us the story of Jesus' birth in a family-friendly service with communion (individual pre-packaged elements), candlelight and glow sticks! In person & online.

### SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DEC 26, 9:30 AM.

There will be no in-person worship on Dec. 26. Stay home, have that extra cup of coffee and join us for ONLINE WORSHIP. Be sure to use the comments on Facebook to wish one another a Merry Christmas, and to share joys & concerns. [www.polkcitiumc.org/online-worship](http://www.polkcitiumc.org/online-worship) or [www.facebook.com/polkcitiumc](https://www.facebook.com/polkcitiumc)

**CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING** This year's Christmas offering will support the ministry of Hawthorn Hill in Des Moines which provides shelter and services for homeless families with children. 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)

**ALPHA IS COMING** Make plans to join our Alpha program on Wednesdays starting January 5th! Great small group opportunity exploring faith in an open and informal environment. Watch a short preview video after worship on Dec. 19 or Jan. 2! Sign up on the entryway board or at [www.polkcitiumc.org/grow](http://www.polkcitiumc.org/grow)

**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 first-time guests)



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 19, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONTACT US: Melody Webb, Pastor: [melody.webb@polkcitiumc.org](mailto:melody.webb@polkcitiumc.org) or 314.630.0768  
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## GATHERING SONG

“Reckless Love”

## WELCOME/CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

[www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship](http://www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship)

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Heidi Anderson

*Leader: We are seeking—*

**People: deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.**

*Leader: We are seeking—*

**People: joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

*Leader: We are seeking—*

**People: the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

*Leader: We are seeking, but here in this space,*

**People: We are found.**

*Leader: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.*

**People: God is here. We are found. Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

“Here I Am to Worship”

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

## CANDLE-LIGHTING CAROL

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 4)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55 (NRSV)

## SONG OF REFLECTION

“What a Beautiful Name”

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

## SERMON

“Seeking Sanctuary”

Pastor Melody Webb

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ella Rae Lawton

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Kyle, Susan, Zadie & Rae Lawton

## OFFERING OUR PRAYERS & PRESENCE

*Turn to a neighbor to share joys and concerns or submit prayer requests on the Connect Cards in entryway.*

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

[www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship](http://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](http://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](http://www.polkcityumc.org)*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Good and gracious God, we give these gifts for the seekers. We give these gifts for those who need sanctuary. We give these gifts for those who build sanctuaries. We give these gifts for those who have lost sanctuary, and for those who find sanctuary all over the place. Use these gifts to bring us closer to home. With joy and hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

## SONG OF SENDING

“Who You Say I Am”

## BENEDICTION

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## 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.

- **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*)