

## A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 21, 2025

10:00 a.m.

### WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

CHIMES (As one body, let us now pause in silence to focus on worship)

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" George Lachenauer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison

INTROIT "Light Four Candles to Watch for Messiah" Wayne L. Wold

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Emily and Dana Hallman

Today, we light four candles—the candles of hope, peace, joy, and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ's eternal love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God is love, and because we were created in God's image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God's love here on earth. Love is patient and kind and powerful, and we all share the calling to go into the world and spread that love to others.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.

**People:** God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.

**Leader:** Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

**People:** God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.

**Leader:** Advent is a time to share with those in need.

**People:** God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.

**Leader:** Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

**People:** God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.

\*HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 88

### CALL TO RENEWAL

And so we live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by the God in whose Image we were created. Let us remake ourselves toward that Image as we make our confession before God and each other.

### PRAYER OF RENEWAL (IN UNISON)

God of Love, you have not marked us by fear or perfection, but by love. Yet we confess that we forget. We define ourselves by being right rather than being kind, by protecting ourselves rather than opening our hearts, by speaking quickly rather than listening deeply.

Forgive us, O God—not because love has failed, but because we have wandered from it. Renew in us the mark of Christ, the love made flesh, the grace that draws us together.

Unite our hearts with your heart. Where we are divided within, make us whole. Where we are distant from one another, draw us near. Where fear has narrowed us, let love widen us again.

Teach us to abide in love, for in loving one another we abide in you.

Mark us once more with grace and compassion, so that our lives may show the world that love is our defining mark. In Christ's name, Amen.

## SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

### GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

God's abundance extends to God's forgiveness. Receive that plenteous gift of grace. Be blessed by God's pardon and be changed by God's favor. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen!**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen and amen.*

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us greet each other saying; 'May the peace of Christ be with you.'

OFFERTORY "Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" arr. Paul Manz

\*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### WE LISTEN FOR CHRIST'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING John 13:34-35

RESPONSE May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart,  
be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Our Defining Mark" Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison

ANTHEM "Advent Psalm" J.S. Bach/ arr. Tom Fetke  
Karen Hunkele, flute

### WE RESPOND TO CHRIST'S WORD

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

### WE GO FORTH TO SERVE IN CHRIST'S NAME

\*HYMN "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" No. 104

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Come, Come Emmanuel" James. J. Chepponis

POSTLUDE "Oh, Come, Emmanuel" Wilbur Held

\*Please stand if able

**SERVING TODAY**

**Usher** – Debbie Speeches

**Coffee Hour** – Linda DiOrio & Colleen Smith

**PRAYER LIST**

Please pray for: Those affected by natural disasters and ongoing wars; Peter C. Jackson; Blanca Campbell and Jim Nina; Jill Tuttle Albiani; Jackie Tuttle; Barry and Benetta Taylor; Rev. John Moore; Jim Preston; Kathy Zarchin; Teri Brennan; Carol Taplin; Andrew Ogar; Barbara Preston; Albert Cyr; For the peace and comfort for the family and friends of Linda Bonaccorso  
*We will gladly list names of any individuals in need of prayer. You may share names by turning in a note from the pew or by emailing the church office prior to Thursday a.m.*

**ONLINE GIVING**

Go to the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church website [www.sipchurch.org](http://www.sipchurch.org) and click the “Make a Donation” button at the bottom of the home page. Your donation is secure and confidential. You can add a note to your gift to mark it for a special purpose.

**SHELTER ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

32 N. Ferry Rd. (P.O. Box 612) Shelter Island, New York 11964  
Phone: 631-749-0805 Email: [info.sipchurch@gmail.com](mailto:info.sipchurch@gmail.com) Website: [www.sipchurch.org](http://www.sipchurch.org)  
Administrative Assistant; Lisa Kaasik - Email: [info.sipchurch@gmail.com](mailto:info.sipchurch@gmail.com)  
A/V Tech – April Adkison

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison, Pastor  
Email: [skypilot\\_mddiv@hotmail.com](mailto:skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com) / Cell: 631-903-9899  
Ellen Gove, Clerk of Session; Linda Betjeman, Minister of Music; Karin Bennett, Sexton

# Shelter Island Presbyterian Church

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



<b>Session Team - Church Elders</b>
Class of 2025: Laurie Fanelli
Class of 2026: Heather Reylek/ Laura Nelsen/ Pamela Jackson
Class of 2027: Marty Kappauf / Gary Kagawa / Ellen Gove
<b>Deacons Team</b>
Class of 2025: Marianne Baird/ Alison Binder/ Sharon Donno/ Lynn Thomson
Class of 2026: Roswitha Wissemann/ Brenda Bergman
Class of 2027: Dana Hallman / Katherine Roberts / Colleen Smith
<b>Congregational Nominating Team</b>
Class of 2025: Heather Reylek / Lynn Thomson / Cindy Griffin / Lynne Weikart

<b><u>This Week</u></b>		
Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Community Choir Concert	3:00
Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Nutrition Program	7:00-1:00
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Food Pantry	4:00-6:00
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	8:00
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas: No Bible Study	
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Nutrition Program Food Pantry	7:00-1:00 10:00-1:00

**Shelter Island Presbyterian Church Mission Statement:**  
“We envision the Shelter Island Presbyterian Church as a spiritual heart of our small island community -- a congregation that keeps its doors open to all and offers service and support to friends, neighbors, and visitors from beyond our shores. We will encourage the spiritual growth of our church's people in Jesus Christ through worship, service to others, stewardship, study and fellowship with one another. We will work to increase our spiritual engagement with youth, young families and our growing senior population. Inspired by God's Word, we look forward to our future with faith and confidence in God's purpose for us. AS WE BELIEVE, SO WE DO.”

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