

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday, December 22, 2019
Advent IV

Serving us in ministry today:

Bill Masterson ~ Deacon of the Day
Delanie & Jenna McConnell ~ Acolytes

Kurt & Lori Schmidt and
Don & Jen VanSlyke ~ Usher/ Greeters

Sue Benedict ~ Nursery
Belinda Burtson & Bonnie Haaland ~ Coffee Hour

The flowers today are in honor of
Jennifer VanSlyke's birthday

TODAY

4:30 Lighting the 1st Candle of Hanukkah
For the next eight days, at 4:30 some of us will gather on the green to light the candles on the Menorah. Our Jewish friends will lead us in this holy observance that has been celebrated for thousands of years.

Attendance December 15: 151



Service of Worship

For Quiet Meditation

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

~ *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Christina Rossetti

WE GATHER

**those who are able, please stand*

Welcome

Prelude
Chimes

following the prelude, we allow some silence

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

Extended Family: Andersons, Cornwells & Homers

Brass Ensemble:

Daniel Ford, Karen Downey ~ trumpets

Elijah Smith ~ baritone

Jacob Dentes ~ trombone

*Hymn Come, O Long Expected Jesus #125

Prayer of Presence

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED IN WORD AND MUSIC

Children's Moment

Season of Praise: A Christmas Celebration

Music by Joseph M. Martin

Joe Ford, conducting Andrea Herzog, piano

Season of Praise

Celebrate the Promise

Alleluia, Sing Noel!

Songs of the Star

A Christmas Proclamation

Season of Praise, reprise

At Joe's invitation, the congregation joins in singing:

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love** (*repeat x 3*)

OUR RESPONSE

Expressions of thanks

Preparing for Prayer

**When I pray, I feel my love go deeper,
my love go deeper into my God** (repeat)

Right here, right now, right where I am, I pray.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Offering

Invitation to Give

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heav-nly hosts.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**O God, we pray that your blessing will descend upon
your children in the greatest of need today. Use us – use
these gifts – for the sake of love in the world. Amen.**

BLESSING

Announcements

*Hymn When God is a Child #132

*Benediction

*Postlude



THIS WEEK:

Monday

9:00 College Students & Pastors –
Brunch at Sinfully Sweet

Tuesday – Christmas Eve

4:00 **Birthday Party for Jesus.**
Cake & ice cream reception following

7:00 **Lessons, Carols and Candlelight.**
Followed by Christmas Cheer, coffee and
family cookies.

Wednesday ~ **MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**

AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 29

10:30 Worship, led by our young adults in college
Evan Ulrich will preach *and*
we will receive a new member.
Join us for this special time of celebration.

Dec. 29 is the deadline to complete your 2019 pledge.

Sunday, January 5

9:30 Faith Formation for Children
Adults will discuss chapter eight of *Holy Envy*
10:30 Worship with Communion

3:00 Epiphany Choir Festival at UPC
Our choir is participating

*Help us prepare for Annual Meeting:
January 5 is the deadline for committee reports
to be submitted to the office.
We will gladly receive them earlier!*

Sunday, January 26 ~
Annual Meetings of the
Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
and the First Religious Society of Homer, NY

With thanks to our choir:

Soprano

Jean Cadwallader
Bonnie Haaland
Dottie Kelly
Elaine Olson

Alto

Gail Brennan
Belinda Burtson
Joanne Cincotta
Sylvia Hammond

Tenor/Bass

Evan Faulkenbury
Chuck Feiszli
Gary Harrington
Jeanine Rose
John Rose
Jim Ulrich

Narrator

Rev. Vicki Burtson

