



**01 DECEMBER 2019**

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*CCLI License #3049316 grants permission for reprinting of words and music*

**WELCOME to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church!**

If this is your first time here we want to say a special thank you for worshipping with us today. Whether

you're visiting, seeking a new spiritual direction in your life, or simply looking for a church home, we pray that *SPIRIT OF LIFE* might be the place for you to grow. Living a life of faith is no easy matter—until we try living life without faith. We're glad you worshiped here today and want you to know that your presence is always welcome! **NOTE:** Hymnals, large print bulletins & children's activity bags are available at the usher station, or you may ask an usher. We also offer nursery upstairs during worship and Sunday school.

**\*We would like to draw your attention to an important housekeeping note:** Should your phone ring during rehearsals or worship, you will be asked to shovel snow for the month of December!

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* arr by Larry Shackley  
Martha Davis

**WELCOME** Rev. Rob Smith

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Duane Sweep  
*"Prepare the Way of the Lord"* by Lloyd Larson Advent Choir

One: In the old we find the new and in our own times all things are being made new.

**All: In this new day may we experience the flowing spirit of unfolding truth, a truth of God's purpose where the low places shall be lifted up, and every and the high places be made low; and the leveling of all things as we see one another made in God's image. May our rough places be made smooth.**

One: Then, in all of this, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. Let the word and love of God renew our ways. Recreate in us the wonder of God who makes all things new.

*"Prepare the Way of the Lord"* by Lloyd Larson Advent Choir

**ADVENT CANDLE READING** Larry and Pat Buchholz

**OPENING HYMN** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* (#82)

**TIME WITH CHILDREN** Vickie Fischer  
*Change for change bucket offering*

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION** Duane Sweep  
One: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to

Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

**All: Come to us now, O God, renew us and call us again with words of healing, that speak into our world, into the times of pain, into the restlessness of the world.**

One: Come to us now, O God, renew us with your forgiveness: words that heal, that leave behind the hurts we do and cause, and redeem the times with future promise, with prophetic words, with incarnation. Come to us now, O God and call us again. Come Emmanuel. Amen.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** Rev. Rob Smith

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Rob Smith

**RESPONSE HYMN** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* (#113)

**ANTHEM** *"Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)"* by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton, arr by Roger Emerson  
Women's Choir

**Kids (K-5) are dismissed to go to Sunday school**

**HEARING**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** Duane Sweep

**SCRIPTURES** Isaiah 40: 1-11 Duane Sweep

**SERMON** *"ReNew: ReCreation"* Andrew Ulasich

**RESPONDING**

**SERMON RESPONSE** *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* (#377)

**CALL TO OFFERING** Duane Sweep

One: A voice cries out, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**All: This is our intent, O God, the way we wish to walk, the pathway we wish to journey, the vision we wish to hold, and the longing that will shape our lives.**

One: May your words become our living, and in our living the world hears your Good News.

**All: We serve together as your people, here, and dare to live, courageously as you call, sharing all that is yours. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY** *"Joseph's Lullaby"* by Brown Bannister & Bart Millard arr by Melody Bober  
Martha Davis

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (Doxology)"* #606  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

One: A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. What shall we say to the world, O God? What shall be our prayer for a world broken, a world confused, a world fearful?

**All: Our prayer is that your promise stands forever: the promise of peace for the Middle East, the promise of justice for the environment, the promise of renewal for our politics, the promise of banquets for the hungry, the promise of welcome for all those excluded, the promise of love for those grieving.**

One: May we live that promise in our lives. Hear us, God. As we lift our prayers, we lift the prayers of our Spirit of Life family...

**All: 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 thy 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.**

*Reception of New Members*

**PRESENTATION**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**  
Pastor Rob: With the whole church, let us confess our faith. (Everyone please stand and join the candidates in affirming the faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed).

**\*Apostles' Creed (traditional) hymnal page 14**

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.** (Congregation may be seated.)

**LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**SENDING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

**CLOSING HYMN** *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* (#119)

**CHARGE & BLESSING** Rev. Rob Smith

**POSTLUDE** Martha Davis

# Announcements ...

Please be sure to submit your announcement to the church office so we may include them in the printed bulletin. All announcements received at [spirit@spiritoflifeav.org](mailto:spirit@spiritoflifeav.org) by noon Wednesday will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Those received later than, will be included the following Sunday. ~Thank you.

Our nursery (2nd floor) is open during worship for children ages 1-6 years.

Throughout the month, we collect change and then bring it on the second Sunday (December 8) to give in the "Change for change" bucket offering. With the help of our children, we continue collecting change in our metal buckets on a monthly basis. This is a great teaching tool to help us show each other and the younger generation how fun it is to give when we hear the change drop in the buckets!

**Our next immigration event is TODAY, December 8, following morning worship.** EVERYONE! Plan to stay after worship for a panel discussion of immigration, its history in our country and how we got to our current situation. We will have a senior immigration attorney, and two representatives from ISALAH who work directly with immigrants navigating their way through our system, speaking from their experience and available to answer your questions. This is a perfect opportunity to get your questions answered!

We are hosting a community vigil in our church home tonight at 5pm. We would for everyone's presence from youngest to oldest to help show our community and all of Minnesota our love and support. Gladys is the director of the Cameroon Women's Choir called "Christian Women Fellowship" who will be leading singing at the vigil. Amanda Craft, Manager of Advocacy, Office of Immigration Issues from our national office is flying in to show the support of our national church. And many leaders from our community are going to be here to share. One more important way you can help. Would you please write a personal letter helping express all the good that Gladys is and what she means for you, as well as expressing that her life is in danger if she is forced to return to Cameroon. For our little ones, if they would please color pictures showing their love of Gladys for us to include. Help share this request with people you know who would be willing to write a letter.

Pastor Rob has set a scheduled time to be available for anyone who might wish to connect with him. **Pastor Rob's "office hours"** are at the Dunn Bros., 15265 Galaxie Ave, Apple Valley, on **Mondays, 9-11am**. If you need to talk regarding life issues, church, or other things, please feel free to drop by or set up an appointment to meet with him.

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Rob for the **midweek Bible study**. The study is on Ephesians, focusing on faith community. We meet **Wednesdays, 10am**, at *Spirit of Life*. See Pastor Rob with questions.

**Meet in the Middle (M+M)** happens on Wednesdays. From 4:30-6pm, kids will be playing games, making arts and crafts, eating snacks, singing, Bible lessons and more! Parents join the kids for dinner at 6pm (provided by the church but free will offering received). Please contact Nikki at [nikkiharves@gmail.com](mailto:nikkiharves@gmail.com) to register or with questions.

**Do you have the heart of a cookie hostess?** We do have an opportunity for you to pursue hospitality during Sunday fellowship hour. Indeed, hospitality is a vital part of the life of Spirit of Life and fellowship hour is the time when people can socialize, get to know newcomers, catch up with friends. Besides bringing cookies, the hostess should also assist with setup, pouring lemonade and water, and cleanup afterwards. Guidelines for being a cookie host/hostess are on the fridge in the church kitchen. We need cookie hostesses for worship in December. Please contact Rosellen Fairall ([rlfairall@gmail.com](mailto:rlfairall@gmail.com)) or Loretta Hunt ([huntgeo@msn.com](mailto:huntgeo@msn.com)) to sign up or with questions. Thank you!

### From the Music Director:

December rehearsal schedule:

8-Dec	Sun	8:30 - 9:00, Womens	9:00 - 9:40	Choir
11-Dec	Wed	7:00 - 8:00, Choir		
15-Dec	Sun	8:30 - 9:40, Choir	11:15 - 11:45	Youth
<b>15-Dec</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Children's Program w Youth 6:30</b> (warm-up w Youth at 6)		
<b>18-Dec</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Reflective Service 7:00pm</b> Choir warmup at 6:20pm		
21-Dec	Sat	9:30 - 11:00, Cantata Dress Rehearsal: Choir, Womens, Youth, Narrators, (Children?)		
22-Dec	Sun	8:45, All groups warm up, rehearse trouble spots only		
<b>24-Dec</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>5:00pm Christmas Eve</b> (4:15 choir warm up and run through)		
29-Dec	Sun	OFF		

~ Thanks, Martha

Like us on Facebook ([SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch))  
AND  
Twitter ([SpiritOfLife@SpiritOfLifeAV](https://twitter.com/SpiritOfLife@SpiritOfLifeAV))

## Volunteers for today, December 8, 2019,

**Lay Leader:** Duane Sweep  
**Audio Visual:** Alfred Hicks  
**Children's sermon:** Vickie Fischer  
**Ushers/Greeters:** Loretta Hunt

### DECEMBER CAREGIVER - Ruth Shepard

**SpiritCare Prayer Team:**  
1.507.263.5975 or 952.423.2212-Office

*"First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to Him. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior."  
1 Timothy 2:1, 3*

### Next Sunday, December 15, 2019,

**Lay Leader:** Scott Harves  
**Audio Visual:** Eric Scott  
**Children's sermon:** Karen Johnson  
**Ushers/Greeters:** Loretta Hunt

2019 Per Capita is \$35.70.

**Christmas Season at Spirit of Life**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm**, the children will be performing their nativity play: *Grandpa's Nativity Story*. There will be cookies, cocoa, and conversation after the performance.

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**, Reflective Christmas

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00am**, we will enjoy the *Christmas Cantata* as part of our Sunday morning worship.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm**, we will have our **Christmas Eve Service**

### Building use this week:

Sun, Dec 8	8:30am	women's choir	sanctuary
	9:00am	choir rehearsal	sanctuary
	10:00am	Worship	sanctuary/kitchen
	11:15am	youth music rehearsal	upper classroom
Mon, Dec 9	5:00pm	Immigration study	Gladys Mbonifor
	7:00pm	Community Vigil to support	conf rm
	6:00pm	Pack 292 leader meeting	
	6:30pm	Cub Scouts/ Den 3	conf rm
Tues, Dec 10	6:30pm	Session mtg	dove rm
		Deacon mtg	upstairs classroom
		Emerald Point HOA mtg	conf rm
Wed, Dec 11		Boy Scouts Troop 292	sanctuary
	10:00am	Ephesians Bible study	conf rm
	4:30pm	M&M	sanctuary/conf rm
	6:00pm	family meal	sanctuary/kitchen
Thurs, Dec 12	7:00pm	choir	sanctuary
	8:00am	stewardship mtg	conf rm
	8:00pm	tech mtg	sanctuary
Sat, Dec 14	8:30pm	NA	sanctuary/kitchen

### SPIRIT OF LIFE STAFF

**Pastor: Rev. Rob Smith** Email: [pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org](mailto:pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org)  
Parish Lay Pastor: Loretta Hunt  
Clerk of Session: Denise Lewis  
Pianist: Martha Davis  
Nursery Caregiver: Trista Hansen  
Office Administrator: Shari Shaw

### OFFICE

10:00 AM—3:00 PM MON-THURS  
FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL ROB @ 952.807.4413

**ReNew**

**Dec 1 ReDiscover**  
**Dec 8 ReCreate**  
**Dec 15 ReBuild**  
**Dec 22 Reveal**  
**Dec 24 Rejoice**

## Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church

Rev. Rob Smith

14401 Pilot Knob Road  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

[www.spiritoflifeav.org](http://www.spiritoflifeav.org)  
[spirit@spiritoflifeav.org](mailto:spirit@spiritoflifeav.org)  
952.423.2212