

*Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*
Luke 2: 10



**WELCOME TO
SPIRIT OF LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124
www.spiritoflifeav.org / spirit@spiritoflifeav.org
952.423.2212

Thank you for joining us for worship!

We hope you experience the joy of God's love in our diverse, inclusive, and compassionate community. Come as you are; all are welcome!

- ◇ Worship is at 10:00 am Sunday mornings, and can be live-streamed or watched later on YouTube or Facebook.
- ◇ Restrooms are in the first hallway to the left on exiting the sanctuary.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

** All who are able are invited to stand.
Hymnals are available on the cart by the sound booth.
Regular attenders, visitors, & members, please complete &
return Connect/Prayer cards in offering plate
or to the Welcome Table at the back of the sanctuary.
Today's worship leaders: Loretta Hunt, Karen Johnson & VeraRae Boucheu*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Prayer

***Opening Song** Joy to the World with Unspeakable Joy (CCLI #5607039)

Prayer of Reconciliation

Leader: On a night long ago, the world changed.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: The God who created the universe came to dwell in it, and chose to make an entrance in a dark, humble barn, surrounded by animals and their humble caretakers.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly, the stars did not seem so far away.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly, the angels did not seem so distant.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly, it was possible for God in heaven to become God with us.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly, God has become one of us and one with us.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: With all before us, a New Year's promise, God is with us reminding us "Do not be afraid."

All: Glory to God in the highest.

Assurance of Grace

Passing of Peace

***Song** (Congregation choice: 1st verse of 3 carols)

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Luke 2: 8-20

Children's sermon (VeraRae Boucheu)

Sermon "I Love Christmas" (story by Max Lucado) (Karen Johnson)

Call To Offering

Ushers will circulate offering plates for those who wish to give in this way. Online giving is also available on our website.

Offertory Light of the World (by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, & Paul Mabury) (Odosia Amadasun, singer)

Prayers of the People

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.

Announcements

***Closing Song** Go Tell it on the Mountain (Hymn #136)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and refreshments after worship.

Announcements

Visitors: Welcome to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church! Thank you for worshiping with us. Visitors, regular attenders and members, please complete the Connect/Prayer card and indicate if you wish to receive our weekly emails. If you don't have a card, please pick one up from our Information Table at the back of the sanctuary. Please return completed Connect/Prayer card in offering plate or in box labeled accordingly at the back. If you have any questions, please ask at the Information Table or Pastor Rob.

Sunday Events:

- **Children's Sunday School class** is suspended Dec 31. Class resumes January 7th. Class starts at 9:30am and goes until 10:15, then the kids will join adults in sanctuary for the Children's sermon. We have a new curriculum called Living the Word which will follow the same Bible verses as our sermons.

Weekday Events:

- **(Monday) COFFEE and CONVERSATION is suspended over the holidays.** Coffee and Conversation Mondays, 9:30-10:30 am, resumes January 8th. Come as you are. This is a gathering online and in person. It is open for you to pop in and out any time so feel free to drop in and say hello. *Note, same time and same login, recurring meeting each week. Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/286584190>.
- **Meet in the Middle is on hold during the holidays, resuming January 17th meeting Wednesdays.** We do many of the same things we did at summer kids camp. Kids can be dropped off at 4:30pm 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 6pm dinner. (A free will offering will be taken for dinner).

We will offer the **GriefShare** series on Thursday evenings starting on February 1, 2024 both in person at the church and online. The starting time will be 6:30 pm and adjourns at 8:30. Bob and Rebecca Shepard will

lead as co-facilitators. If you have lost a loved one you can feel alone and experience sadness and depression. This 13-week grief recovery program will allow you to meet others with similar experiences and meet others who understand what you are going through. You will learn practical tips for navigating your grief. To register contact Bob Shepard or go to GriefShare.org (GriefShare.com will take you to a different program).

Little Free Food Pantry: It's cold outside!! Our little free pantry continues to serve many in our neighborhood. However, with our freezing weather we must now discontinue glass jars and canned food. Good options for winter include anything in a box (potatoes, pasta, powdered milk, etc) or bag (cereal, tuna or chicken in foil packets, rice, ramen, etc.) or plastic jar (peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce). Many thanks for your help in feeding hungry neighbors through our pantry.

Please note date change: Valentine Cabaret will be held February 3, 2024, so please save the date. If you want to share a musical talent, donate a silent auction prize or donate a dessert please contact Sayra Maberry or Eric Scott!

Prayer Ministry at Spirit of Life Please use the connect card and turn in at the offering time if you have a prayer request to share today. During the week, please email our deacon, Chris Sachs at ccsachs123@gmail.com to share a prayer request with our Spirit Care Prayer Team.

NOTE: Pastor Rob Smith will be taking family time December 25th—January 2nd and the church office will be closed. If you have a crisis emergency, contact Ryan Currens at 952-564-7042.

Usual Church Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 10-3. Call ahead to make sure as we work remotely some days.

Staff: Pastor: Rev. Robert (Rob) Smith (pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org)
Music Director: Martha Davis (davis.martha@live.com)
Office Administrator: Shari Shaw (spirit@spiritoflifeav.org)

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