

Hurley Reformed Church
Blue Christmas Service
December 20, 2023; 7:00 pm
Rev. Sara Appleyard-Pekich

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." And so we invite each other to this time of worship.

All: Quiet yourself in this busy holiday season, find space for yourself.

Leader: Come, cast aside your burdensome cares and put aside your laborious pursuits.

All: Give your time to God, and rest in God for a little while!

HYMN #157, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

READING "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle

HYMN #163, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

SCRIPTURE: *Psalms 13*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Reader: God of Light and Life, we light this candle for all those who are struggling with issues involving physical or mental health. May its light remind us all of the healing available to us in Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers.

Silence

Reader: We light this candle for all those who are struggling with financial concerns, job loss, or debt. May its light remind us all that you are the Great Provider, you will give us our daily bread. Hear our prayers.

Silence

Reader: We light this candle for all those who grieve. May its light remind us that we are not orphaned, we are not alone. Hear our prayers.

Silence

Reader: We light this candle for all those who are victims of violence in any of its forms. May its light lead us to peace, safety, and truth. Hear our prayers.

Silence

Reader: We light this candle for all those who are experiencing the pain of broken relationships with family, children, spouses, and friends. May its light remind us of the pure communion you desire for all your creation. Hear our prayers.

Silence

Reader: We light this candle for all those who are estranged from you, who are besieged with doubts, who are overwhelmed by the world and do not claim your presence in their lives Lord, may the light of your love lead us all home to you. Hear our Prayers.

Silence

You may come forward to light a candle and offer a prayer, remembering that Christ is the light who comes into our darkness, whatever and wherever we experience it.

SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:1-20*

CLOSING PRAYER

HYMN #171, "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

BENEDICTION

Welcome to Hurley Reformed Church!

With joy we welcome your presence among us today. Let the words of the psalmist set the tone of our worship: "Sing praises to the LORD, O you faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name--joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:4-5 NSRV)

Mission of the month- Collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and boots.

Reach out to those who need your support in their day to day needs:

Judy Bell (Terry Gaffken's mom) needs prayers; Shirley Ruth is in Golden Hill; Bev Roosa is at the Terraces at Brookmeade; Lori Pinkham is in Wingate at Ulster; Terry Conlin; Shirley Burns; Debbie Tucker

Audio recordings of the weekly sermon are available on our website, HurleyReformedChurch.org.



Hurley Reformed Church

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Staff

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Treasurer – Arlene Cotich

Consistory 2023

Elders

Dennis Croswell, *Property & Maintenance*
Marilyn More
Glenn Decker, *Senior Elder*
Lisa Longto, *Clerk*
Linda Moon, *Missions*
Bill Baldinger

Deacons

Allan Dumas, *Finance*
Lee Gable
Jeanne Quenzer, *Program & Activities*
Aileen Helsley, *Youth Ministry*
Dino Sumerano, *Worship*
Robert Kindt, *IT*

Rev. Charles E. Stickley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Stickley Gardens Columbarium . . . A sacred place of beauty and contemplation.
(Located on the south lawn of the church.)

The lone candle on the chancel is our Peace Candle. It represents this church's support for the men and women in military service, and our prayer that one day we will live in a world where their sacrifice is no longer needed.

Hurley Reformed Church Hurley, New York

The Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Minister of Word and Sacrament

Welcome

May the doors of this church be wide enough
to receive all who need human love and fellowship, and a Father's care;
and narrow enough to shut out all envy and hate.

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

#157 Come Thou Long-expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art-
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart!

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

#163 O Come O Come, Emmanuel

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive
Israel, That mourns in lowly exile here Until
the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to
Thee, O Israel!*

O Come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here. Disperse the
gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows
put to flight.

Refrain:

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, And order all
things far and night. To us the path of knowledge
show, And cause us in her ways to go.

Refrain:

O come, Desire of nations; bind All peoples in
one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife, and quarrels
cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain:

#171 Silent Night! Holy Night!

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace;
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing, "Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
Al-le-lu-ia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born:
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.