

# Advent 2025



**December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



**UNITED CHURCH**  
*of* **PITTSFORD**

**American Baptist & United Methodist**

**Liturgist:** Sharon Cree

**Guest Musician:** John Nyerges

**Pastor:** Rev. Julius David Jackson, Jr. (Pastor JD)

**Advent Readers:** Whitney Paxson and Marilyn Grunert

*A hearing loop is available for the hearing impaired.  
Please ask the ushers if you need assistance.*

*\* Indicates: Those who are able may stand.*

## **PRELUDE**

*Musical Selection*

Guest Musician: John Nyerges

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*HYMN #89 (1,2&4)**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

### **PRAYER OF GATHERING** *(in unison)*

The Psalmist reminds us it is you, O God, who executes justice for the oppressed; gives food to the hungry; sets the prisoners free; opens the eyes of the blind; lifts up those who are bowed down; watches over the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. God we lift before you these same ones: the oppressed, the hungry, the homeless, those caught in the prison of their own addictions, those who are so depressed they cannot experience your love. Divine Physician, bring healing in our lives, in the lives of our loved ones, in our church, in our nation, and in our world. Amen.

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**ALL: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.**

ONE: Do not put your trust in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**ALL: Happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

ONE: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

**ALL: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

## **UNISON PRAYER**

Lord, help us in your name to execute justice for the oppressed and to embody such hospitality as to make strangers, orphans and widows feel like family. Help us to even love the wicked as your Son taught and lived. Forgive when we do not trust your vision for our world, our church, and our lives. Help us to trust you with the impossible for we know all things are possible with you our God! Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 35:1-10 NRSV

## **\*HYMN #211 (1-3)**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



## **JOY - ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING**

**READERS: Whitney Paxson and Marilyn Grunert**

On this third Sunday of Advent, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of joy. When Christ comes into our lives, He brings the fullness of joy. He anoints our hearts with the oil of gladness.

When Jesus was born, the angels said that His coming was good news of great joy for all people. Because Christ has come to us, we can live every day in the joy of the Lord. Praise to His name!

**ADVENT HYMN #221 (1-4)** In the Bleak of Midwinter

## **SCRIPTURE/MORNING MESSAGE**

**Matthew 11:2-11 NRSV**

**"THE JOY OF JESUS"**

**Pastor Rev. Julius D. Jackson, Jr.**

**HYMN #204 (ALL)**

Emmanuel

**MORNING PRAYERS/ SHARING OUR JOYS  
AND CONCERNS**

Pastoral Prayer

**GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Offertory     *Musical Selection*

Guest Musician: John Nyerges

\* Prayer of Dedication for Offering

**CLOSING HYMN #644 (1,2)**     Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Musical Selection*

Guest Musician: John Nyerges

*~ Those who are able may stand! ~*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please join us for coffee in Howard Hall.**

### **Calendar**

#### **2025**

TONIGHT	John Williams Concert - 7 pm
Tues., Dec. 16	Pittsford Pres "Blue Christmas" - 7 pm
Wed., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship - 7 pm
Sun., Dec. 28	Unique Sweater Sunday & Hymn Sing Sunday

#### **2026**

Wed., Jan. 14	MLK Event at UCP - 7 pm
Sun., Jan. 18	UCP Annual Budget Meeting
Mon., Jan. 19	King Day Celebration at Eastman 10 am
Wed., Jan. 21	MLK Event at UCP - 7 pm
Sun., Jan. 25	MLK Event at UCP - 3 pm
Sat., Jan. 31	PUNS Cleaning Day - 8 am to 5 pm
Sun., Feb 1	Annual Congregational Meeting

### **Mitten Tree for Cameron**

TODAY is the final day to decorate the tree in Howard Hall with socks, gloves, mittens, scarves or knitted hats for Cameron Community Services. Thank you for your generous support.

### **2026 Offering Envelopes**

2026 offering envelopes are in Howard Hall. If you would like one and don't see yours there, please contact Verna Hazen.

## **December is Pasta Month**

December is Pasta Month for the Community Food Cupboard of Rochester. We would like to collect the pasta in time for a Christmas delivery. **Let's see how much we can collect by NEXT Sunday, December 21.**

## **From the Missions Committee: Christmas Offering**

Our Christmas offering will be used to support the Community Food Cupboard of Rochester. The Community Food Cupboard of Rochester is dedicated to feeding hungry families and home-bound senior citizens in Northeast Rochester and Irondequoit. Thank you for your support.

## **Santa's Mailbox**

"Santa's Mailbox" is back in Howard Hall! Come "mail" your Christmas cards to all your friends at UCP. What a festive way to share your greetings and save on postage!

## **UCP's Friday Email Blast**

UCP's Friday email blast features most current news and information on everything UCP. If you do not receive our Friday email and would like to subscribe, please contact the office.

## **Lectionary Texts for next week (December 21, 2025)**

### **ADVENT 4 - LOVE**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 PM

# “HAPPY HOLIDAYS” CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The United Church of Pittsford

123 S. Main St. - Pittsford

[ucpittsford.org](http://ucpittsford.org)

Rev. Julius “JD” Jackson, Jr.  
Pastor



John Williams  
Pianist



FEATURING: JOHN WILLIAMS ON PIANO

Join us for “Happy Holidays” - a one-hour, narrated piano program of Christmas carols and holiday tunes saluting the season. The performance will conclude with a few singalong selections.

FREE CONCERT. FREE AND ACCESSIBLE  
PARKING. EVERYONE WELCOME!



UNITED CHURCH  
*of* PITTSFORD



UNITED CHURCH  
*of* PITTSFORD

*Each of you should give what you have  
decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

Scan this QR code with your cell phone to access  
UCP's secure giving page at **[ucpittsford.org/give](https://ucpittsford.org/give)**.  
Once there, choose from the following funds:



General Offering  
Memorial Fund  
Capital Improvements,  
Repairs & Replacements  
Missions  
Music  
Christian Education  
Fellowship

For more ways to give, please see the  
**WAYS TO GIVE** card in the seatback.  
**Thank you for your support.**