

Offering

Offertory

“And There Was a Star”  
(David Paxton)

Presentation of Gifts with Doxology

Hymnal #94

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts:*

*Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

O God, as we bring forth our tithes, our offerings and our gifts, we testify to the Light of the World that glows within this congregation and spreads beyond its doors. May God bless this offering that Christ’s light will shine throughout the ages. Amen.

Life and Mission of the Church

\*Hymn

“People, Look East”  
(Hymnal #202)

Going Out to Do God’s Word

Benediction

Postlude

Recitative & Chorale from Christmas Oratorio  
“Tis Right that Angels Thus Should Sing”  
(J.S. Bach)

\*Please Stand if you are able

Should you need a ride to church or events for any reason, contact [donnafellingsvt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellingsvt@gmail.com)  
(802-355-1700)

**NOTE:** The lighted flame entering the sanctuary at the beginning of worship symbolizes the Light of Christ coming into our midst. The pastor follows the Light in this procession, seeking to reflect that Light in leading the worship service.

# Williston Federated Church

*United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ – Federated 1899*  
*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

*Mission Statement*

*Our church is a community which seeks, welcomes and gathers people to share the Gospel of God’s love, enables people to find fullness of life through Jesus Christ, goes into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ, and responds actively to human need.*



*The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner 1898, American (active France); Born 1859, died 1937*

*Pastor ~ Reverend Paul Eyer 878-5792, [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)*

*Emeritus Pastor ~ Charlie Magill*

*Lay Leader ~ Ashley Dubois, Ministers ~ The People of the Church*

*Church Office Administrator ~ Sally Nowotarski*

*Music Director ~ Martin Hain, Organist ~ Carolyn Pillsbury*

*Choir Accompanist ~ Cindy Thurston, Nursery Caregiver ~ Michelle Davis*

*44 North Williston Road, Williston, VT 05495*

*Church Office: (802) 878-5792, e-mail address: [office@steeple.org](mailto:office@steeple.org), Website: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)*

# Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

December 24, 2017 ~ 9:30 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for young children.

Hearing assistance devices are available – please ask an usher for assistance.

## Centering Words

*“Framed in light, Mary sings through the doorway. Elizabeth’s six month joy jumps, a palpable greeting, a hidden first encounter between son and Son. And my heart turns over when I meet Jesus in you.”*

Luci Shaw, Winter Song, 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## Words of Welcome/ Call to Worship

Ashley Dubois

Lay Leader, Williston Federated Church

One: God of surprises, startle us with truth we do not see, amaze us with your power and grace, beckon us, and lead us far above restricted hope and narrow faith.

**All: In this sacred season, draw us forward into your realm of unlimited possibility. Amen.**

## Prelude

“Shepherd’s Song”

(Gustav Merkel)

## Introit

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

## Greeting and Announcements

**Sharing the Peace of Christ** (a brief time of greeting other worshippers nearby)

## \*Hymn

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

(Hymnal #203)

## Lighting the Peace Candle

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Paul and Carol Bouchard

One: On this fourth Sunday in Advent we remember Mary, the bearer of the light of the world. *[Four purple candles are lit, and reading continues.]*

Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." *(Luke 1:38)*

Her cousin Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." *(Luke 1:42)*

**All: And Mary replied, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." *(Luke 1:46-47)***

## Anthem

“We Wait”

(by Ruth Elaine Schram)

## Listening for God’s Word

## Time with Children of All Ages

## Scripture readings

Gospel

New Testament page 56-57 in Pew Bible

Luke 1:26-38

## Sermon

“Nothing is Impossible”

Pastor Paul Eyer

## \*Hymn

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

(Hymnal #198)

## Responding to God’s Word

## Celebrations and Concerns

**Prayers of the People.** Response: **Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

## Pastoral Prayer

## Silent Meditation

## The Lord’s Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine in the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Liturgical resources: The **Call to Worship** was adapted from “Liturgy for the Celebration of Life” by Rev. Rex A.E. Hunt, the Uniting Church of St. James, Curtin, Australia [http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy\\_collection/year\\_b\\_liturgy\\_collection/year\\_b\\_-\\_advent/advent4b21122008.html](http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_b_liturgy_collection/year_b_-_advent/advent4b21122008.html). The **Advent Candle** reading is adapted from a liturgy by Rev. David Beswick of the Uniting Church of Australia, found at <http://www.beswick.info/rcresources/A4B96OS.htm>. The **Call to Offering** is adapted from a liturgy entitled “From Darkness to Light, Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent” written by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes.*

**Greeters:** Carol Bouchard   **Coffee:**  
**Ushers:** Melissa Delisle and Ruth Skiff  
**Scripture Reader:** Shelley Marshall  
**Advent Candle lighting:** Paul and Carol Bouchard

**Williston Federated Church ~ Week of December 24, 2017**

**Wednesday, Dec 28** ~ 7:30pm AA Meeting

**Thursday, Dec 29** ~ 8:00am Centering; 7:00pm Choir

**Friday, Dec 30** ~ 7:00am Men’s Bible Study

**Saturday, Dec 31** ~ 9:00am Alanon;

**Sunday, Jan 1** ~ 9:30am Worship around the Breakfast Table

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Pastor Paul Eyer will be away Wednesday, December 27 through Friday, December 29. During that time, Rev. Paul Hoffman will be available to provide emergency pastoral care. Rev. Hoffman can be reached at 371-9770 or via email at [plhoff123@gmail.com](mailto:plhoff123@gmail.com).

**Christmas Eve Reception**

After the **7:30 Christmas Eve service** there will be a Christmas cookie reception in the Fellowship Hall. Punch will be provided. You are invited to bring Christmas Goodies to share.

**Community Christmas Eve Service** is at the Old Brick Church at 11:00PM.

**December 31 ~ New Years Eve Morning Worship Around the Breakfast table**

**Pot Luck**~ We will Worship Around the Breakfast table on December 31—New Year’s Eve morning at 9:30. Coffee and juice will be provided—please bring a dish to share.

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**Greeters:** Ken Stone   **Coffee:** Barb Bristol  
**Ushers:** Melissa Delisle and Ruth Skiff  
**Scripture Reader:** Shelley Marshall  
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