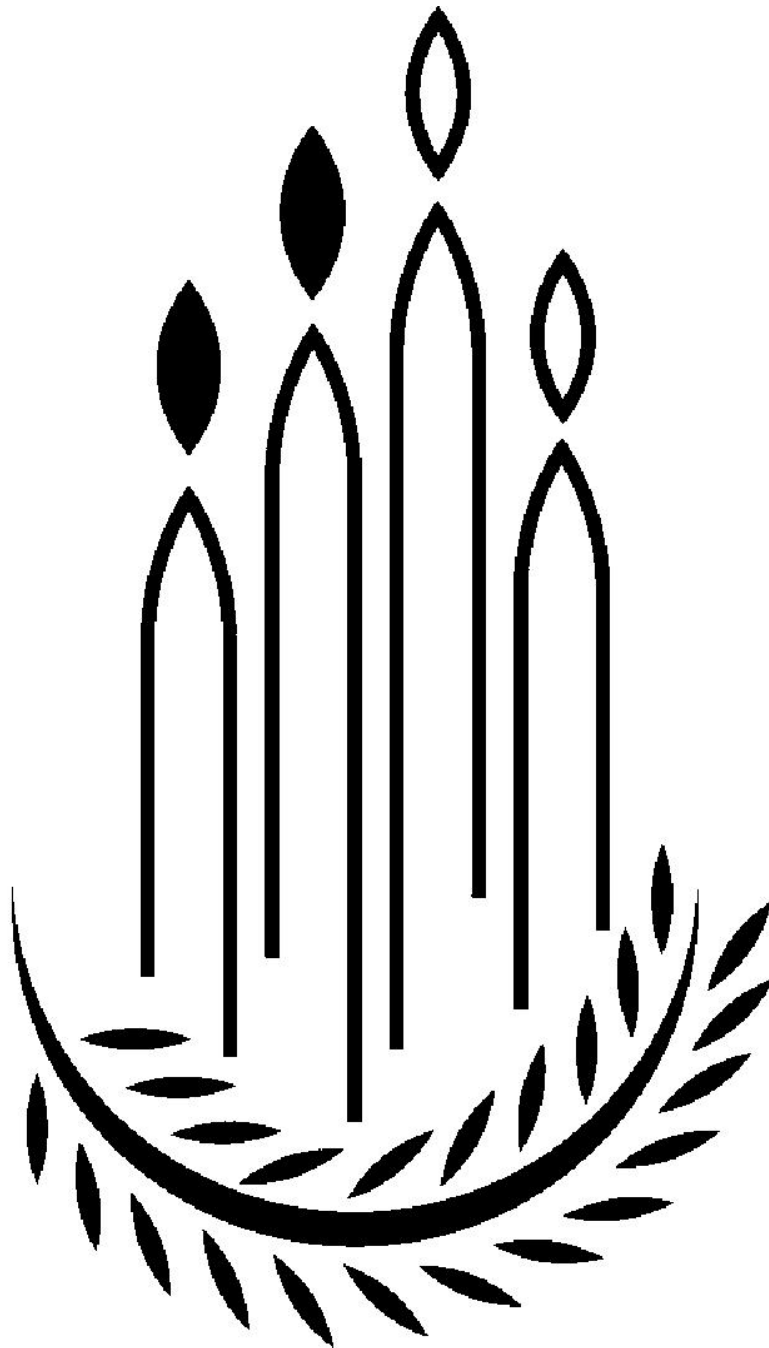


Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Large Print Bulletin



1688 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217
412-421-2752 / office@sixthchurch.org
www.sixthchurch.org

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 4, 2022, 11:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645" J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Introit "Creator of the Stars of Night" arr. Richard Robert Rossi

Creator of the stars of night
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer, of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
You came, O savior, to set free
the world in glorious liberty.

When the old world drew on toward night,
You came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heav'n shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God Creator, God the Son,
and God the Spriti, Three in One,
Praise honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.
Amen!

*Call to Worship

Psalm 72:18-19

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

All: Blessed be God's glorious name forever; may God's glory fill the whole earth!

LET US WORSHIP GOD!

*Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

82

*Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Confession

All: God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what You have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with Your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kin-dom.

Silent Confession

Kyrie

"Wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27)

90

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Assurance of Pardon

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Time for Children

Jenny Newman

Children remain seated with their families during the Time for Children; children third grade and younger are invited to go upstairs for Extended Session after the Exchange of Peace

*Exchange of Peace

Leader: Remembering that some of our church family is watching the livestream, let us first turn to the cameras and say, "Peace be with you!" (*Turn and offer the peace.*) Being mindful of the comfort levels and boundaries of those around us, let us pass the peace of Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

All: Mighty God, send Your Holy Spirit, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through Your Word, which stands forever. Amen.

Hebrew Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10 (pg. 784)

Hebrew Reading

Malachi 3:1-4 (pg. 1088)

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12 (pg. 3)

Sermon

"The Right Nightmares"

Rev. Vincent Kolb

*Hymn

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

96

*Affirmation of Faith

Confession of 1967, 9:18

All: God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve God in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God

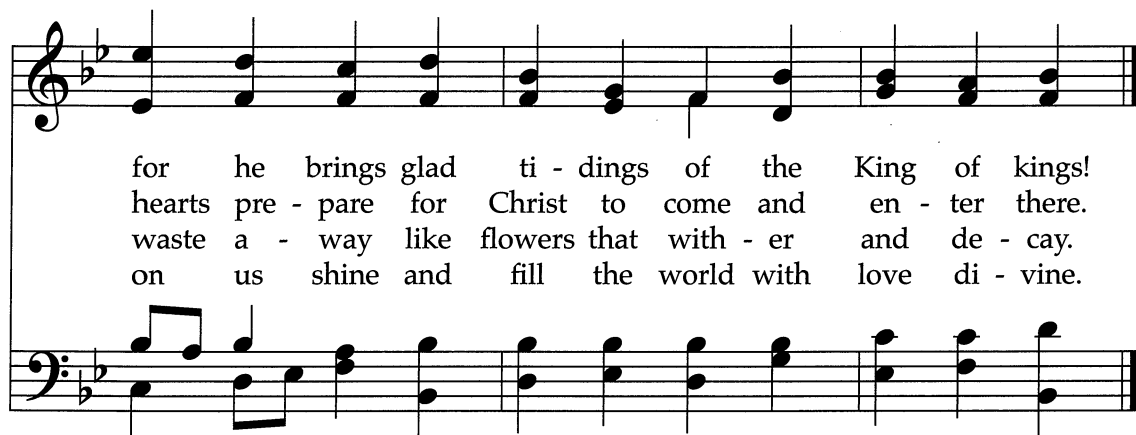
96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and



nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -



for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful in every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: . . . Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
do not let us fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

The Communion of the People

Communion Interlude

"Liturgical Improvisation no. 2"

George Oldroyd

'Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.'

Offertory Sentence

As this is Communion Sunday, loose plate offerings will go to the Deacons

Good King Wenceslas look'd out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep, and crisp, and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

'Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'
'Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

'Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pinelogs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.'
Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

'Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.'
'Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heart was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian's all, be sure,

Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

***Doxology**

607

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Praise God, in Jesus fully known,
Creator, Word and Spirit One. Amen.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: Let us give thanks, for God is good and God's Love is everlasting!

All: Thanks be to God – whose love creates us!

Thanks be to God – whose mercy redeems us!

Thanks be to God – whose grace leads us into the future!

***Hymn**

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

106

***Benediction**

***Amen**

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

141



Feel free to sit and enjoy the Postlude or quietly leave as you wish

Postlude

"Noël Suisse (Grand Jeu et Duo)"

Louis-Claude Daquin

**Those who can may stand*

Church Information and Announcements

We are an open and affirming community of faith in Jesus Christ. At home in an urban neighborhood of many faiths, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. In worship, study, and fellowship, we celebrate our Presbyterian roots and find joy in our diversity. We strive for the grace to love one another as we seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit, working for justice and serving as stewards of God's wondrous creation.

Sixth Is a More Light Church: A network of people seeking and affirming the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



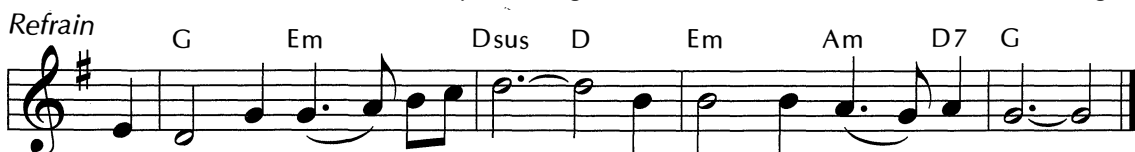
- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

Inclusive Language: Words matter. Jesus Christ, the living Word, reached out to all people to bring them into God's fold. The kingdom of God includes all people; therefore our language should reflect the inclusivity and equality among the people of God. To that end, when possible, we seek to eliminate the inherent bias of the English language toward the masculine gender without altering passages that reflect the historical situation of ancient patriarchal culture, out of which the Bible originated.

Masks: Masks are required in the building while Allegheny County is in a "medium" or "high" CDC community risk designation; N95 or similar masks are preferred while in "high." Masks are welcome while in "low."

Assistive Hearing Devices: Assistive Hearing Devices – compatible only with hearing aids equipped with a T-Coil – are available at the Murray Avenue entrance

Large Print Bulletins: If you would like a large print bulletin, please see an usher for a paper copy or, if you would like to use your personal device, for guidance on how to find a digital copy on our website.

Prayer Cards: If you would like to have a person named and prayed for during the pastoral prayer, please fill out one of the white cards by the bulletins/ushers and give it to Vincent prior to the service.

Recording Notice: This service is being livestreamed and is available online in perpetuity

Seating: While distancing is not required, we do encourage people to leave space as attendance allows and to be mindful of people's continued need for distance

Church Nursery: Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available during the worship service. Our childcare staff are required to be vaccinated.

Sunday School and Extended Session: Sunday school is held upstairs at 10 am for children in preschool through high school. Extended Session for children in preschool through third grade is held upstairs during worship following the Time for Children. Our teachers and staff are vaccinated.

Adult Sunday School: Bill Guy's class meets Sundays at 9:30 am over Zoom. Contact Bill or the church office to receive the Zoom link and to be added to his email list.

Water of Baptism: Each Sunday we pour water into our baptismal font to reaffirm the covenant that God makes through this community of faith

Candles for Peace, Justice and Personal Prayers: You are welcome to come forward to light a candle anytime during worship when words are not being spoken. Please maintain physical distance while waiting your turn.

Children and Candles: We love having children participate in the service, and we ask that—in order to maintain everyone's safety—you accompany your child while lighting candles.

Coffee Hour: We will be having Coffee Hour after worship on the first Sunday of each month

Communion: The Lord's Supper will be served today by intinction—you will be offered a piece of the bread, which you are then invited to dip into the cup. In the Presbyterian Church, baptism is a one-time event and an ongoing process. We say that all who are baptized and "instructed" are welcome to come to the Communion Table.

Today's Service: Surprise!, Surprise! (acolyte and water pourer); Beth Hazlett (liturgist); Kirk Howe (livestreaming); Sara Berg, Mary Lang, Barb Parees (ushers)

Next Week: Christmas Pageant lessons and carols! In lieu of the annual all-church dinner, there will be a reception following the service

Bible Study: Pastor Vincent's weekly Bible study of the lectionary texts meets Wednesdays at 10:30 am over Zoom. Contact the office to be added to the email update list.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: Thursday, December 1 and 8, 6 pm

Midterms Post-Mortem with Mary: Join our own Dr. Mary Radcliffe from FiveThirtyEight for a review of what was learned and what was missed by the pre-election polling and punditry on Tuesday, December 6, at 7 pm via Zoom. Sponsored by the Justice Team of Sixth, Mary would prefer to design the class in direct response to your questions about the 2022 election. Submit as many questions as you like by 12/1 through this link: <https://forms.gle/QGnAx6EjjRihnbb67>. Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Family Advent Tree: All church members and families are invited to bring an ornament to decorate the tree. Make an ornament together or bring in a family favorite. If you are not attending in-person worship, feel free to send us an ornament or drop one off (please make sure they are marked somewhere with your name). We are looking forward to seeing our tree come to life!

Plastics Recycling Carshare: Do you have plastics that aren't recyclable curbside building up in your home? Did you know that Michael's Brothers takes all plastic numbers 1-7? April Clisura has volunteered to bring a load of plastics from our church on Sunday December 20th. If you would like your plastics to be included, please bring them on the 20th or arrange with April by email at april.clisura@gmail.com. Please message April ahead of time so that she knows how much plastic you have for her.

Separate your plastics as follows: Number one plastics in their own bag. Number two plastics in their own bag. All other plastics, 3-7, can be combined in the same container. Please put your plastics in paper bags or cardboard boxes and clearly label them

with your name and what kind of plastic it is. If you'd like to take a turn hauling plastics to Michael's Brothers, talk to anyone in Earth Care or email Cosy at cosyknitsliterally@gmail.com.

Love Will Win: Thank you to everyone who has made their Stewardship pledge for 2023! We are currently at 80% of our Campaign Goal of \$358,037. If you have not already submitted your pledge, please either mail in your pledge card, fill out the form on the church's website, or e-mail Amy (office@sixthchurch.org) with your 2023 Stewardship pledge amount. Please remember that if you make your contributions by e-Give, we still need to know your pledge amount, since e-Give does not notify us. — The Stewardship Committee.

An evening with Joy: The Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh will host the return of the Joy Ike at Sixth this afternoon at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for students, and are available online at www.copgh.org

Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church

Sunday, December 4

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Sunday School (10 am)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh Concert (3 pm, Sanctuary)
NA — Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Monday, December 5

NA — Make a Change (7 pm)

Wednesday, December 7

Bible Study (10:30 am, Zoom)
Pittsburgh Bridges OCD Support Group (7 pm)

Thursday, December 8

Presbytery (1 pm)
Sunday School pageant rehearsal (6 pm)
Choir rehearsal (7 pm)

Saturday, December 10

AA — Turning Point (5 pm)
NA — Squirrel Hill Group (7:30 pm)

Sunday, December 11

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Sunday School (10 am)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
NA — Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Monday, December 12

NA — Make a Change (7 pm)

Wednesday, December 14

Bible Study (10:30 am, Zoom)

Thursday, December 15

Choir rehearsal (7 pm)

Saturday, December 17

AA — Turning Point (5 pm)
NA — Squirrel Hill Group (7:30 pm)

Sunday, December 18

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Sunday School (10 am)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
NA — Men's Meeting (8 pm)



Candlelight Vigil

First United Methodist Church and
the Pittsburgh Equality Center
invite you to honor the victims of the
Club Q shooting.

PGH
EQUALITY
CENTER

We Call Attention to the Rise in Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate and Gun Violence

Wednesday December 7, 2022 6:00 pm

Outdoors at the Corner of Centre Avenue and South Aiken Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15232



Used by permission

We must rise against hate in the strongest possible terms, we must stand together in solidarity and love with our LGBTQ+ family in Colorado Springs and demand an end to this epidemic of gun violence. Kelley Robinson, HRC

We stand among this incredible cloud of witnesses and today proclaim:

Where hatred roars, we will sing of love.

Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage.

Where bigotry rages, we will call for justice.

Where pain overwhelms, we will extend kind comfort.

Where systems oppress, we will work for change.

Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

For more information: info@pghequalitycenter.org

Poinsettia Memorials

We offer two options for honoring our loved ones at Christmastime:

1. You can buy a poinsettia for \$8 and have a name placed in the Memorial Booklet in honor or memory of a loved one. You can then take your flower home after the Christmas Eve service.
2. The second option will be to have a loved one's name placed in the Memorial Booklet as before but instead of buying a flower, you will be donating \$8 or more to the Deacons Fund.

We realize that there may be fewer flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas, but we feel that some of the money can be used for another cause and you will still have the opportunity to honor your loved ones.



Please complete this form and return it to the church office.

Checks should be made payable to "Sixth Presbyterian Church" with "Poinsettia Memorial" or "Deacons' Fund" written in the memo field. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia **and** donate to the Deacons Fund as well, please write separate checks.



I wish to order _____ poinsettias at \$8 each

I wish to donate _____ to the Deacons Fund

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Your name (please print) _____

Phone/email _____

Name(s) to be remembered:

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of _____

The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Sunday, December 11