

December 21, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent



**Mission Statement: To Bring People to Christ
And Nurture Them in the Faith**



Pastor: Rob Bacon
Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Rev. Jerry Swanberg, Emeritus
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Maxwell Methodist Church
December 21, 2025 – 4th Sunday of Advent
Pastor: Robert Bacon; Lay Speaker: Carol Bacon
Pianist: Deb Mitchell

*Please stand if able

Prelude. Deb Mitchell

Welcome/Announcements

We Worship as We Rejoice

Praise Team

We Worship as We Gather

***Call to Worship**

Leader: To know the warmth of love
People: To have the assurance that someone cares
Leader: To be confident of our worth
People: To be bold to love in return
Leader: To be washed over with grace
People: To be accepted as we are
Leader: This is to know the love of God
People: Then let us worship our God.

We Worship in Prayer

***God of Israel, with expectant hearts
we, your people, await Christ's coming.
As once he came in humility,
so now may he come in glory,
that he may make all things perfect
in your everlasting kingdom.
For he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.**

We Worship During the Season of Advent

We light the Candle of Love. Kennedy Hostetter and Eric Jansonius

We Worship in Song

Hymn. "Of the Father's Love Begotten". Hymnal #166

We Worship Together in Belief

***The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, He rose again,
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Worship by Hearing the Word

Scriptures (NIV):. Jeremiah 31:3-4, Psalm 97:9-12, 1 John 4:4-10, 16,
John 3:13-17

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:3-4

³The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying:
"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
⁴I will build you up again,
and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.
Again you will take up your timbrels
and go out to dance with the joyful.

Psalm 97:9-12

⁹For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
¹⁰Let those who love the LORD hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
¹¹Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart
¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name.

1 John 4:4-10, 16

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit^[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

God's Love and Ours

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 3:13-17

¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

***Gloria Patri Hymnal #33**

We Worship in Prayer

Praises and Requests

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

We Worship With Our Gifts

Offering plates are at both doors as you enter or leave and will not be passed.

***Doxology / *Offertory Prayer**

We Worship in Song

***Hymn. “Joy Has Dawned” Hymnal #196**

We Worship in Learning the Word

Sermon. “Love Devine”. Pastor Rob Bacon

We Worship in Song

*Hymn. “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”. Hymnal #88

Benediction

Postlude. Deb Mitchell



Announcements

- **Pastor’s Office Hours** : By appointment. Rob 515-460-8885; Carol 515-460-8969
- **Bulletin Announcements**: Please forward bulletin announcements to office@maxwellmc.org by Wednesday.
- **Fellowship Sign-up**: Please sign up to bring refreshments for fellowship time.
- **SNNOW**: Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- **December 24 @ 5:30 pm**: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Maxwell Methodist Women's Group

The "Bible Babes" *Bible Babes Women's Bible Study—* *New Series on ANGELS!*

Starting—Thursday, January 8th, 2026, 6:30pm

Maxwell Methodist Church Lower Level

Ladies, you're invited! Join the *Bible Babes* as we kick off a brand-new study all about Angels—who they are, what the Bible says about them, and how God uses them in powerful ways.

Come for:



Fun, faith-filled fellowship



Easy, meaningful conversations



A safe space to grow together



Inspiration for the New Year!

Bring a friend, your Bible, and your beautiful self.

We can't wait to dig in together!

NOTE: This study uses text and videos each week. An Angels book is not required to attend the study, but if you'd like to purchase one, they are available on Amazon for \$21.99.

Angels by Melissa Spoelstra

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