



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**300 School Street**  
**Clarks Summit, PA 18411**  
**570/586-6306**  
[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2013

9:00 and 10:55 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude

“Picardy”

arr. McChesney

Call to Worship

from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

***The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.***

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

***The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!***

\* Hymn 15 (PH)

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***God of the future,***

***You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.***

***We confess that we have not expected your kingdom.***

***We have lived casual lives and ignored your promised judgment.***

***We have been slow to serve you and our neighbors.***

***Lord, have mercy.***

***Forgive us for the sake of Christ, our Savior,***

***whose coming we await.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Response: ***God of promise, God of joy: into our darkness come!***

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 (NT, p. 11)

Psalter: Luke 1:46-55 (Sing 102)

A Time with Children

Anthem "People, Look East" arr. Linda R. Lamb

Second Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 (OT, p. 663)

Sermon: "The People You Meet on God's Highway" Rev. Carter

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 28 (PH) "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (PH, p. 14)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "The Darkness is Falling" arr. Powell  
Connie Weiss, oboe; John Weiss, cello; Kay Ten Eyck, organ

\* Doxology (PH 592)

\* Prayer of Dedication

## **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 12 (PH) "People, Look East"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Wachet Auf" arr. Callahan

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\* All who are able shall stand.

PH Presbyterian Hymnal

***Sing Sing! A New Creation (green songbook)***

**The flowers** this morning have been given by Beverly Bright to the glory of God and in memory of her parents, Willard and Frances Wollen Bright.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	William Carter
Director of Educational Ministries	Tina Ide
Director of Music	Susan Kelly
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Laura Schillinger
Ushers	Brian Schillinger, Chris Spangler (9:00) Carole LaCoe, Shirley McLaughlin (10:55)
Welcomers	Betty Keen (9:00), Alice Broxton (10:55)
Advent family	Dobson/Kusma family (9:00) Schillinger family (10:55)



*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

## ***Matthew 11:2-11***

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. 'Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## ***Isaiah 35:1-10***

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.