

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

10:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music: Hymn 88, v. 1

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Creator of the Stars of Night" Warner

Call to Worship

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

***Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.***

Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near:

***The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God.***

\* Hymn 83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***God-with-us, even in Advent,  
we confess that you can seem far away.  
You are hidden when we need you near.  
In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you;  
instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor,  
even those we love.***

***Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!  
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,  
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.  
In Jesus' name we pray.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

***The candle of hope we light in this hour  
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.***

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Mark 13:24-37 (NT, p. 50)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"The Yearning"

Craig Courtney

Second Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9 (OT, p. 694)

Sermon: "If God Would Come"

Rev. Carter

*Sermon Series: Have Yourself a Spiritual Little Advent*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Offering

Offertory "Savior of the Nations, Come" Kosche

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign  
of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you  
may drink the cup as you are served.*

\* Prayer after Communion

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

- \* Hymn 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming"
- \* Charge and Benediction
- \* Congregational Amen (601)
- \* Postlude "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

Hahn

*All are invited to remain seated to listen to the postlude.  
If you are leaving before it is finished, please do so quietly*

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\* All who are able shall stand.

***The flowers** this morning have been given by Shelley Land and Heather Lyons to the glory of God and in loving memory of their mother and grandmother, Johanna Gay.*

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

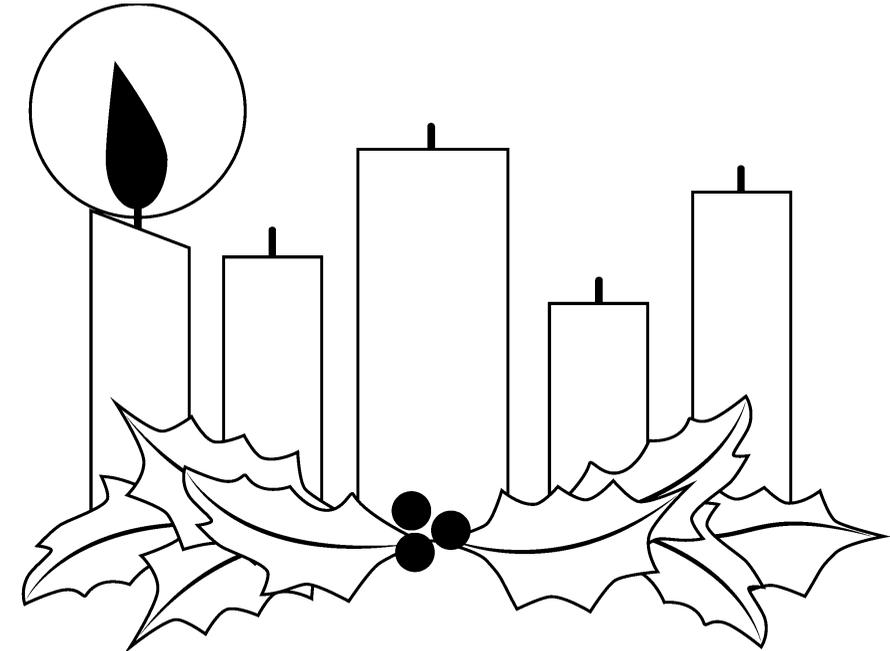
Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Heather Acker
Ushers	Jim McLaughlin, Betty Keen
Welcomers	SaraAnn Hosier
Advent Candle	O'Brien Family
Communion Servers	Heather Acker, captain; Adrienne Horger, Gwynne Gilbert, Warren Acker

*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

*We are grateful for the many ways that  
people support our church's ministry to*



*the community and world. If you wish to  
contribute by cell phone, **scan here.***



FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

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

### **Mark 13:24-37**

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

### **Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.