

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music
Concerns of the Church
Prelude

“Come, O Lord”
Chapel Choir

arr. Wold

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always,
Again I will say rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:4

* Hymn 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
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 we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the earth.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath
Response (Hymnal 95)

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (OT, p. 691)

Psalter: Psalm 126 (Hymnal 73)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Watch for Messiah”

arr. Wold

Chapel Choir

Our young children are invited to attend “Joyful Noise” in room 103.

Gospel Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NT, p. 91)

Sermon: “Who Are You?”

Rev. Carter

Theme: Advent Awakenings

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 100 “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Carol Lynn Mizell

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

Joyful Noise! participants will return to the sanctuary.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

“Wachet auf”

arr. Callahan

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given to the glory of God by Gerry Conklin in loving memory of her son, Dale.

Lighting the Advent Wreath this morning are members of the Chapel Choir.

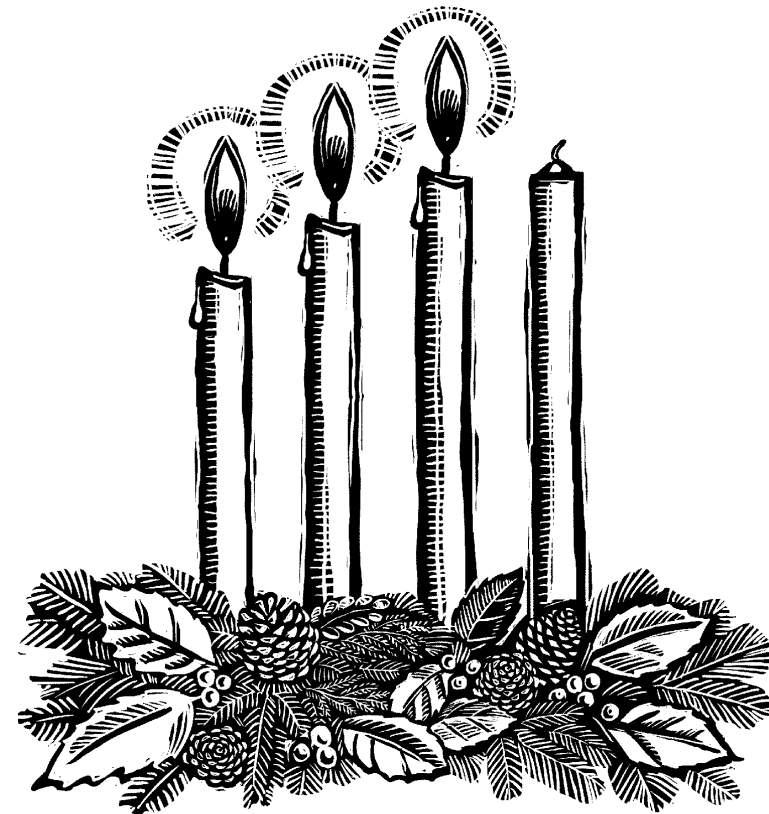
The Chapel Choir anthem, “Watch for Messiah”, is an old Yiddish folk tune with new Advent words by Wayne Wold. Originally published in 1984 as a part of the collection “Three Songs for Advent”, it has become a popular addition to hymnals published since 2000, including our own Glory to God hymnal. If you would like to follow along while the Chapel Choir sings, please turn to page 85.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Director of Educational Ministries	Tina Ide
Director of Music	Susan Kelly
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Members of Chapel Choir
<i>Joyful Noise</i> leaders	Char Lyon and Tori Yankow
Ushers	Sarah Ann Hosier and Anne Deremer
Welcomer	Fred Campbell



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.



Third Sunday in Advent

**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe

through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.