

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "The Angel Gabriel"
Ariana Billiot, Harley Miller, Riley Wescott

arr. Howell

Call to Worship

Jesus says, "I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

My soul magnifies the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

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

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light.

We hurt and destroy one another

and neglect the poor and hungry.

We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Awaken us to your Word,

so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Three candles shine as God's promise draws near,
beckoning us to be the good news of the God who saves.

Joy awakens in us. There is a spark to brighten the way.

Watching and waiting, we prepare room for Christ to come.

Christ is coming to make all things new. We watch for the light!

Response (Hymnal 350)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,

keep your lamps trimmed and burning,

keep your lamps trimmed and burning,

for the time is drawing nigh.

Special Music

"Advent Song"

Chapel Choir

Bedford

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

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

Psalm: Song of Mary (Hymnal 99)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"Every Valley"

John Ness Beck

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

Sermon: "The Promise of Joy"

Rev. Carter

Sermon series: What God Promises the World

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

* Affirmation of Faith from the Belhar Confession

We believe that God has entrusted the church

with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe the church is called to be

the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

We believe that the church is called blessed

because it is a peacemaker.

We believe that the church is witness both, by word and by deed

to the new heaven and the new earth

in which righteousness dwells.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Powell

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Amen 601

* Postlude "Once He Came in Blessing" arr. Burkhardt

*During Advent, we invite you to remain seated until the Postlude is complete,
as a way to meditate upon the meaning of the season.*

* All who are able shall stand.

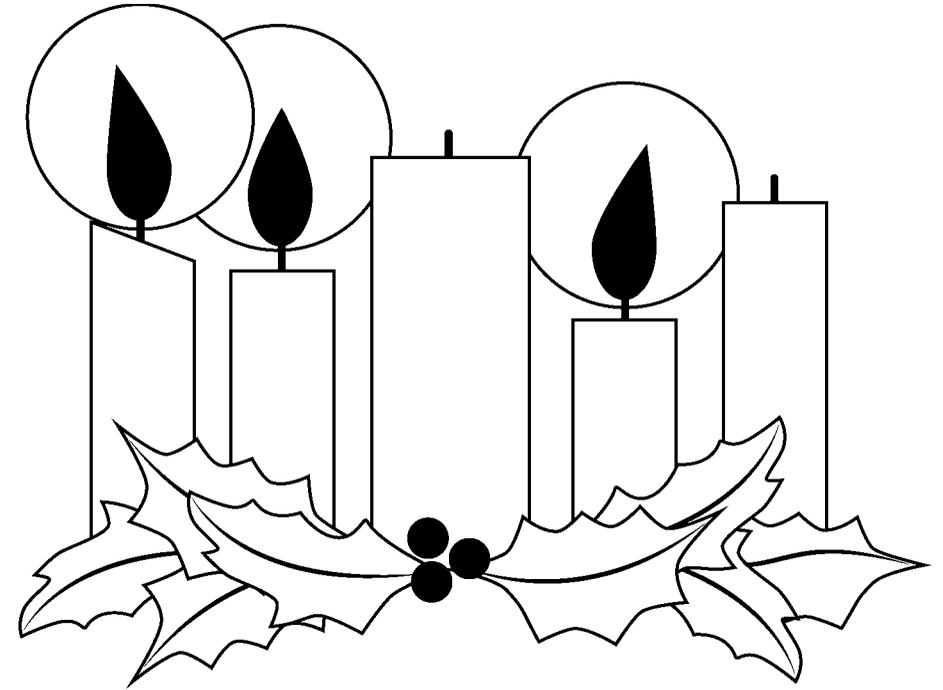
*The flowers this morning have been given by Gerry Conklin to the glory of
God and in loving memory of her son, Dale.*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist/Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgists	Chapel Choir Members
Advent Candle	Confirmation Class Members
Ushers	Betty Keen
Welcomer	John Conklin

We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
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THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

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.